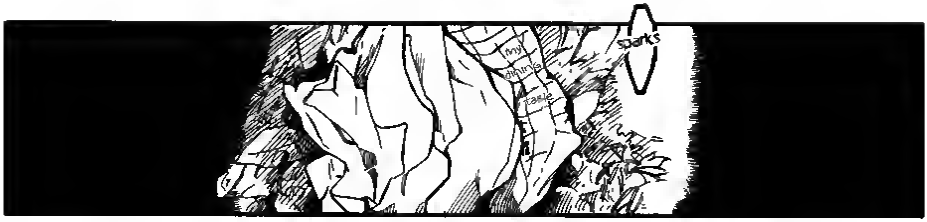
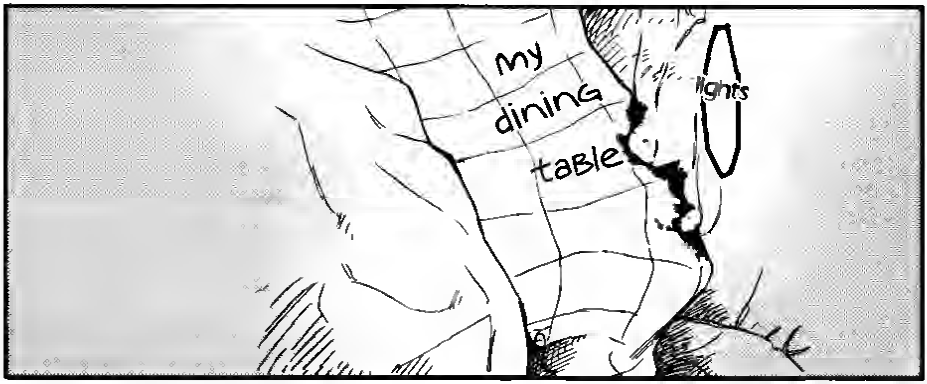
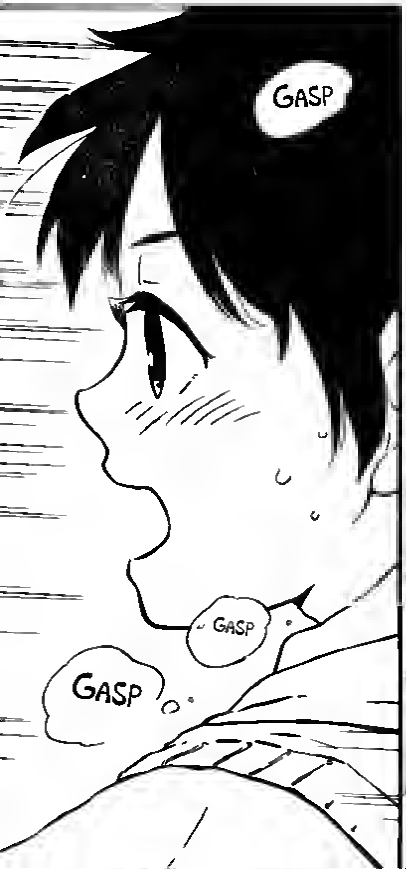
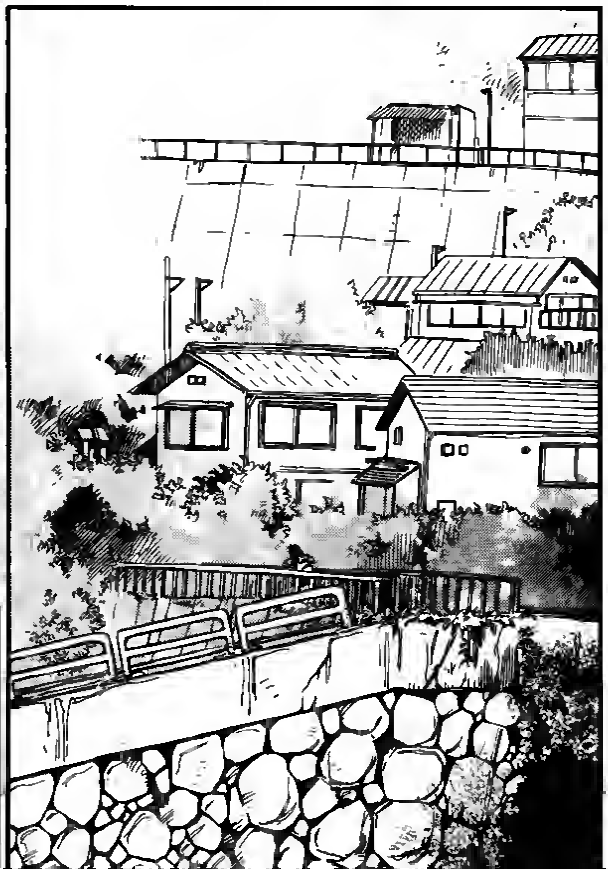
星を追う子ども

Children who Chase Lost Voices from Deep Below


sparks


my
dining
table
lights


GASP
GASP
GASP



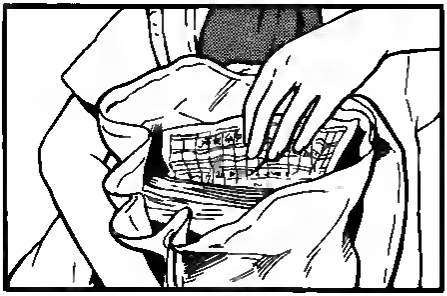
Chapter 1

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I OFTEN WENT SEARCHING FOR EDIBLE WILD PLANTS WITH MY FATHER
MY MOTHER WAS ALWAYS BUSY WITH HER JOB AS A NURSE
AND SO IT WAS OFTEN THE CASE THAT MY FATHER, WHO WAS A SCHOLAR, DID THE COOKING
Topic
My Dining Table

AFTER MY FATHER PASSED AWAY...
THEN ASUNA TOOK OVER, DIDN'T SHE?
WOW, THAT'S AWESOME!
.....
giggle
giggle
giggle
DON'T TEASE.
PLEASE CONTINUE, ASUNA.
...I WAS GLAD WHENEVER MY MOM TOLD ME IT WAS DELICIOUS...

LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER.
WE JUST FINISHED OUR CLEANING DUTIES
HEY, ASUNA!
SORRY, I'M IN A HURRY.
THE TEACHER TOLD US THAT SINCE THERE'S BEEN A BEAR AROUND, WE SHOULD HEAD HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
SHE SAYS SHE'S BUSY.
GIVE IT UP, YUU.
WE'LL JUST GRAB OUR BAGS AND BE RIGHT TH-
BYE!
I'M SORRY.

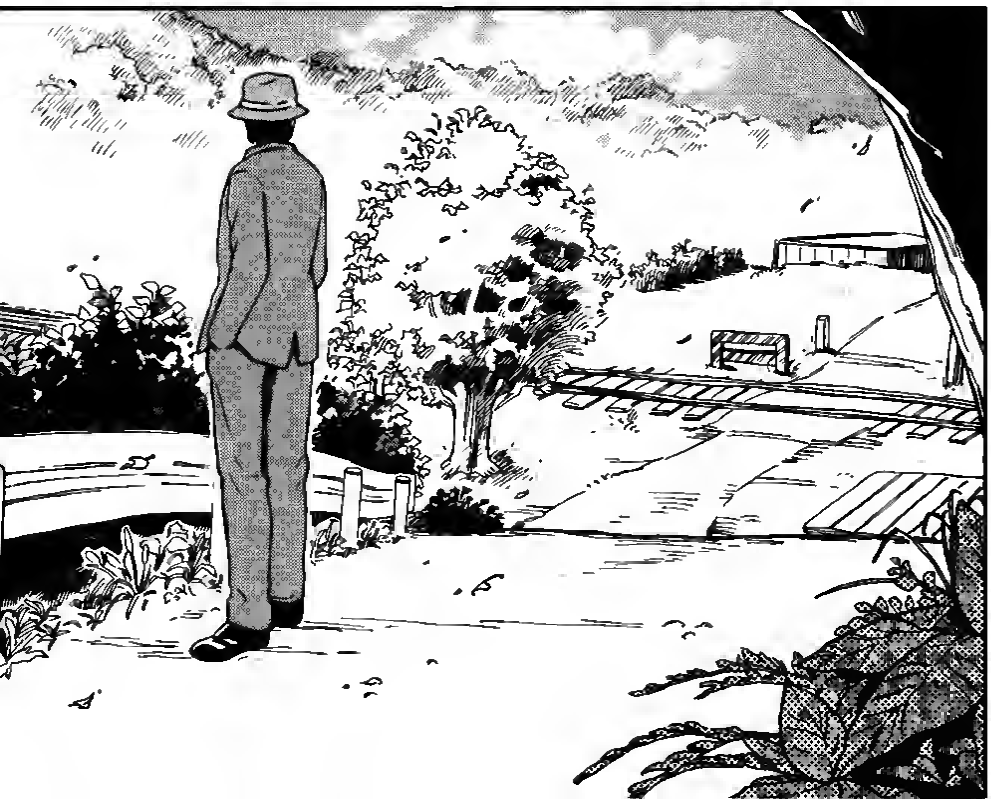
YUU, WHY DID YOU INVITE HER?
HUH... BUT SHE'S A FRIEND.
BUT ASUNA NEVER INVITES YOU.



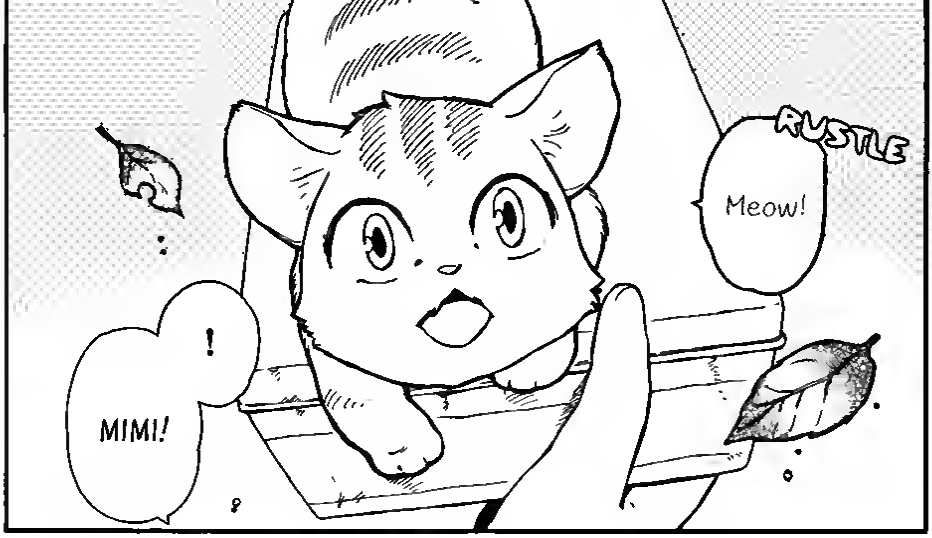
SHE ACTS LIKE IT'S TOO BOTHER-SOME.
I MEAN IT FEELS LIKE SHE'S JUST FINE BY HERSELF

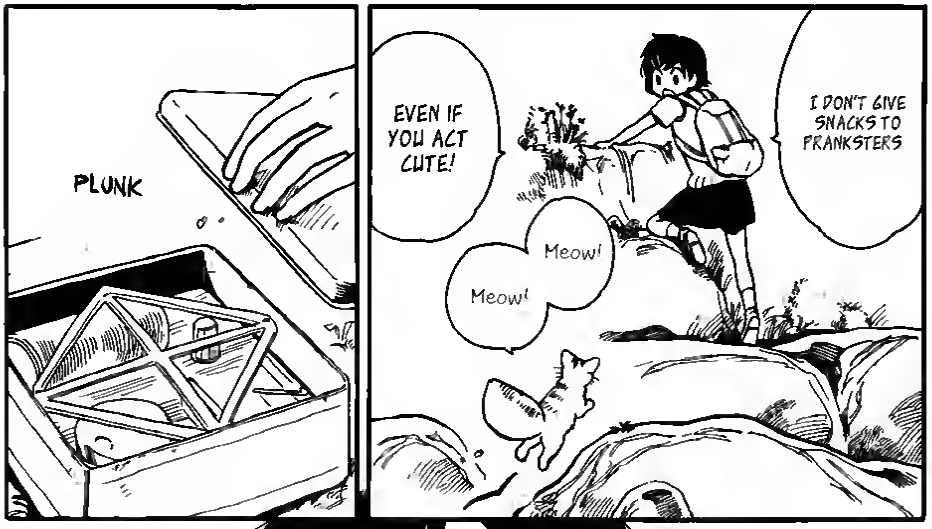
Is it bear patrol?
STEP
.....
Oh, he went the other way...

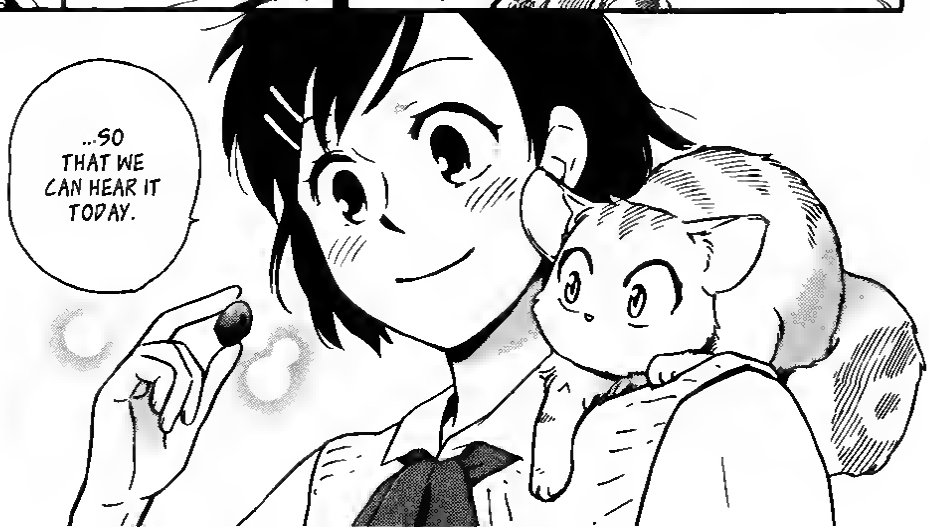
Because this is my place.
BLEH!
Don't come anymore, okay



?
Some-
thing's
stuck.


RUSTLE
Meow!
!
MIMI!

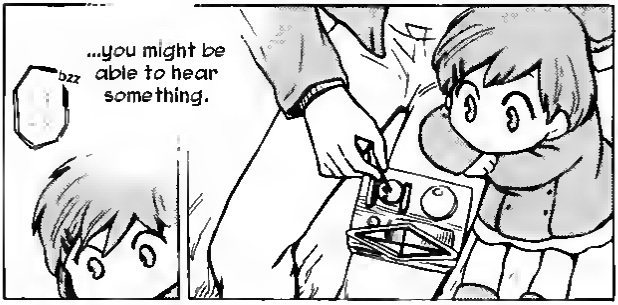

PLUNK
EVEN IF YOU ACT CUTE!
Meow!
Meow!
I DON'T GIVE SNACKS TO FRANKSTERS

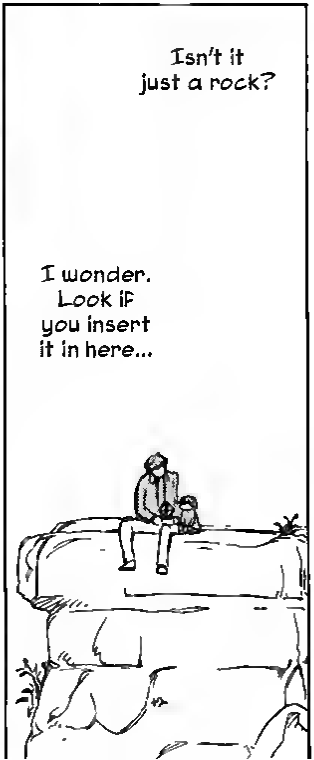

...SO THAT WE CAN HEAR IT TODAY.

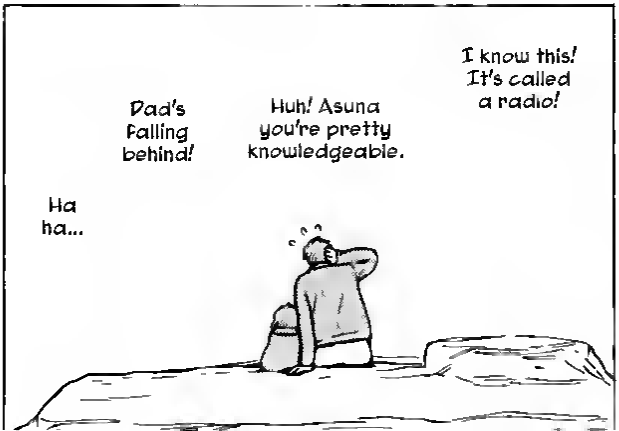
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ

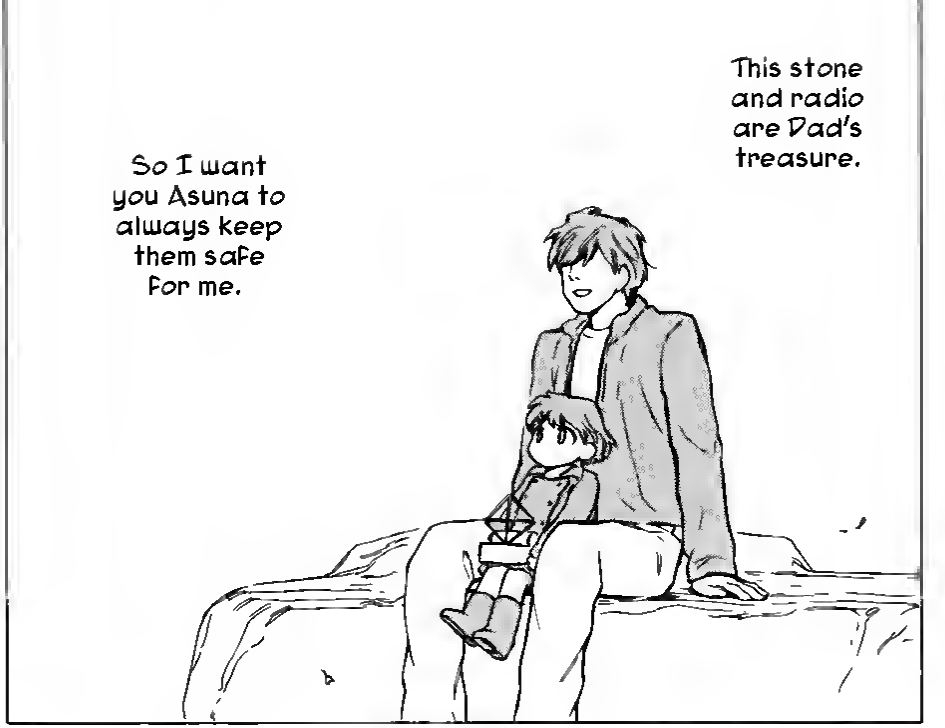
IT'S NO GOOD!
HMMM
HIS ISN'T IT EITHER.
WRONG.
NEXT WE INTRODUCE
BZZ
...EACH COUNTRY'S...
BZZ
BZZ
IN THE END I WAS ABLE TO HEAR THAT SONG.
JUST THAT ONCE.
I WANT TO HEAR IT AGAIN...
...Asuna.

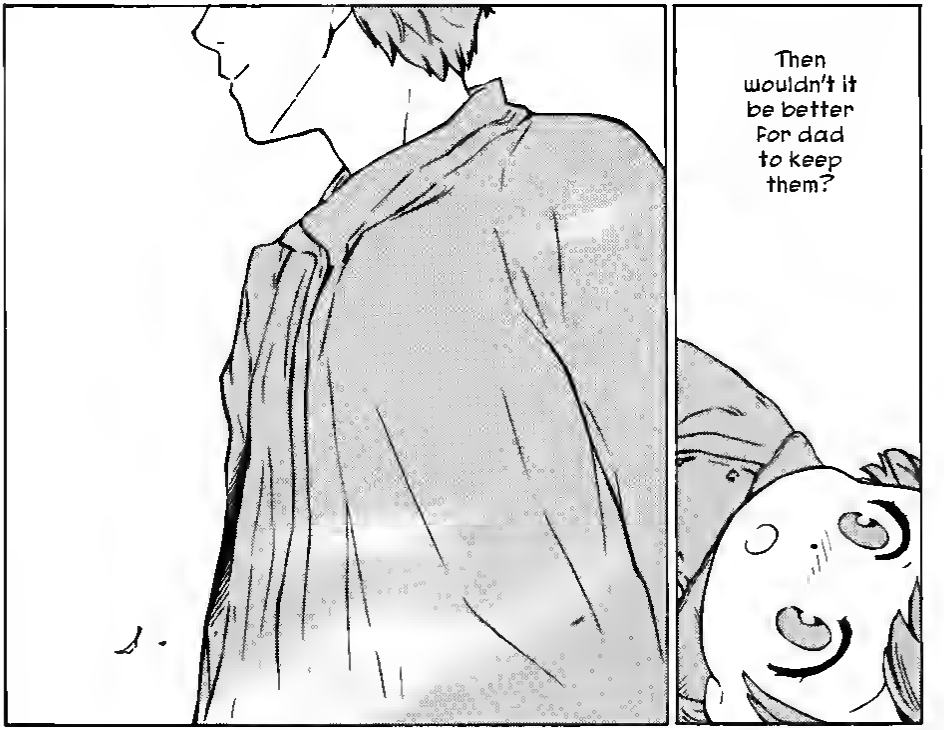
Asuna,
I'm going to give you a magical stone.

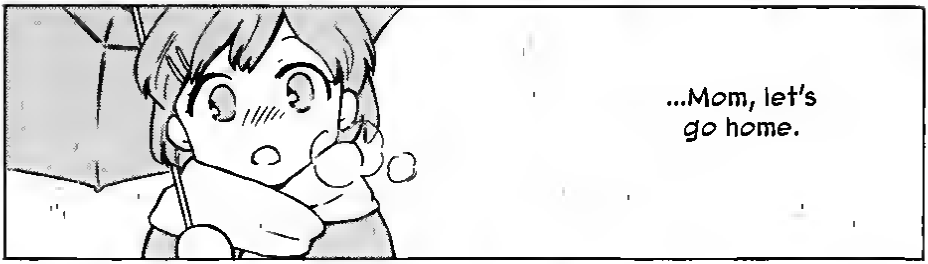

...you might be able to hear something.
bzz

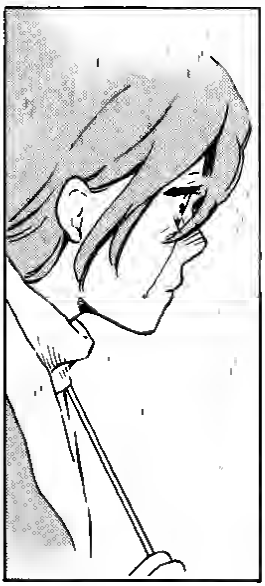

Isn't it just a rock?
I wonder. Look if you insert it in here...

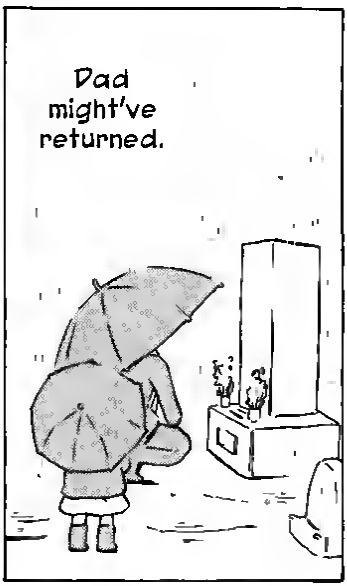

I know this! It's called a radio!
Huh! Asuna you're pretty knowledgeable.
Dad's falling behind!
Ha ha...


This stone and radio are Dad's treasure.
So I want you Asuna to always keep them safe for me.


Then wouldn't it be better for dad to keep them?

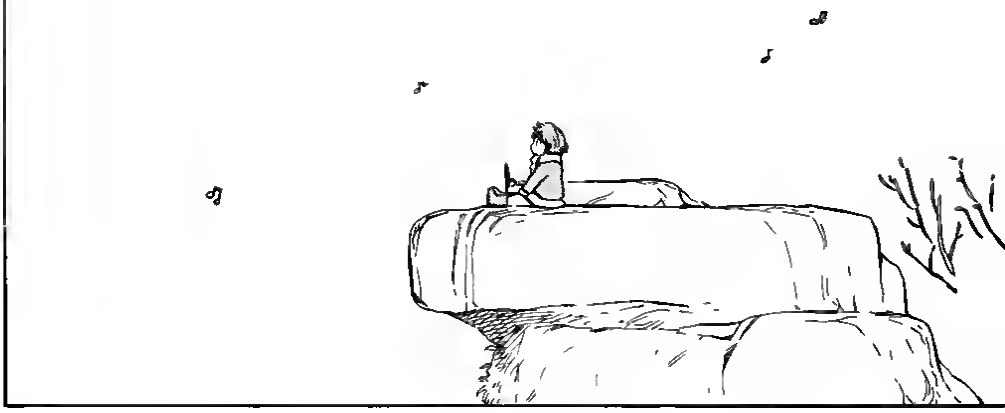

...Mom, let's go home.

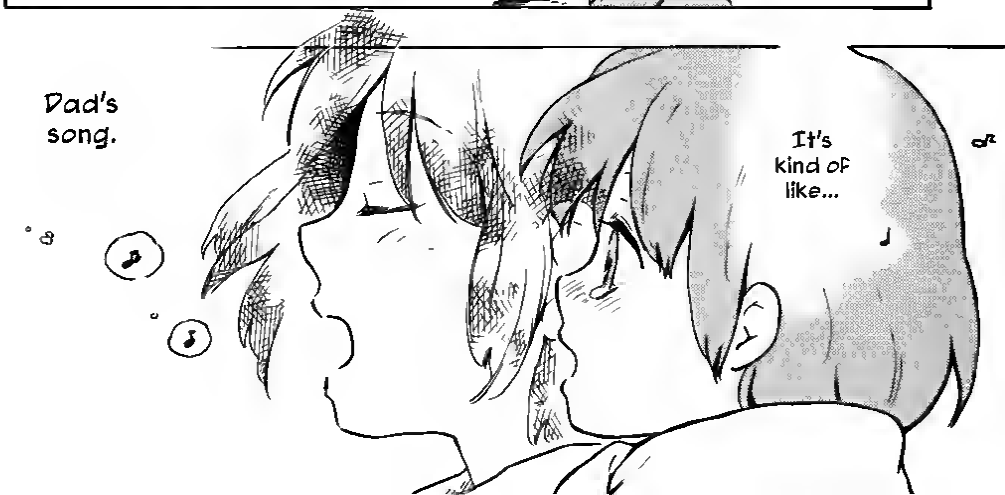



Dad might've returned.

...Where did Dad go?

They say he's dead, but what's being dead?





La ~
La la ~
La la la la ~
La ~
Teacher said that there's been a bear around.
LET'S GO MIMI!
—WHAT?
La la ~
THUD

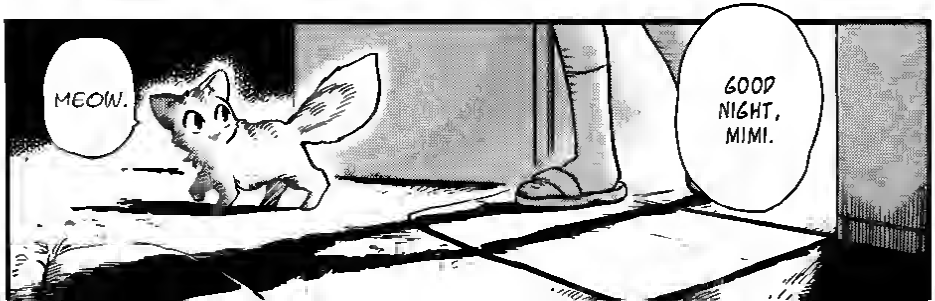
RUSTLE

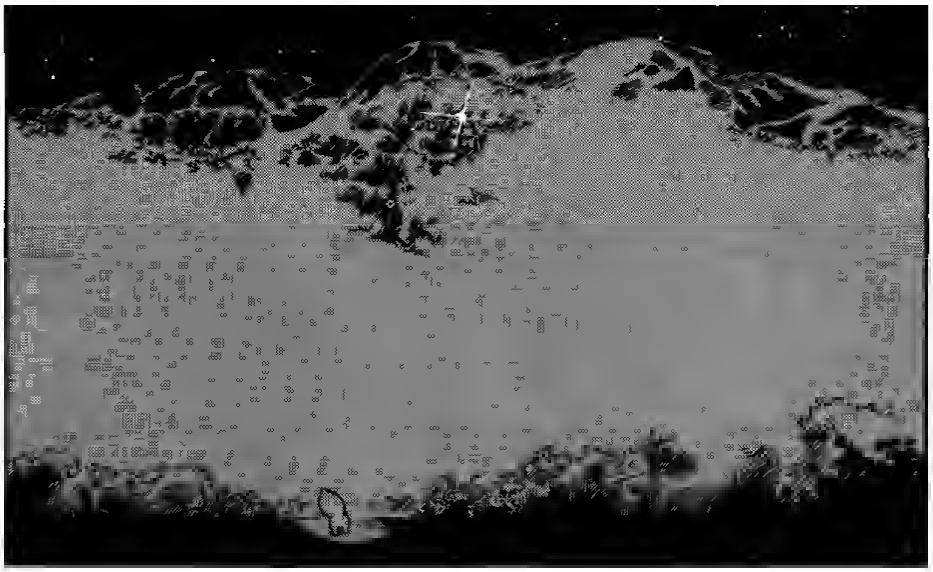
RUSTLE

RUSTLE

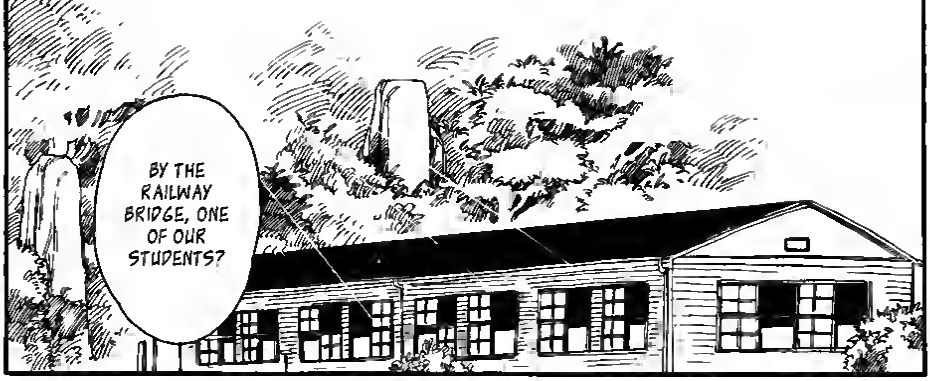
I'M WORKING THE NIGHT SHIFT TODAY AND WON'T BE COMING HOME.
HELP YOURSELF TO ANYTHING IN THE FRIDGE
AND MAKE SURE TO LOCK UP, OKAY.
GOOD NIGHT.
BEEP

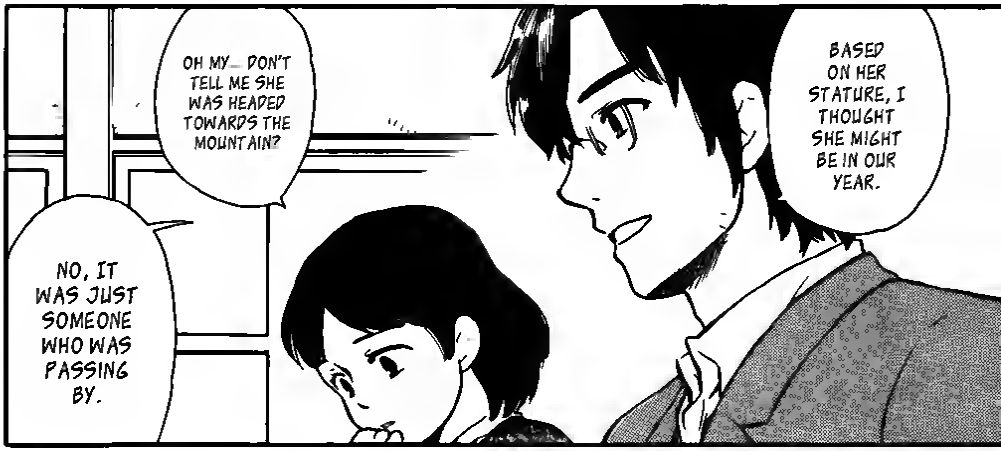
CATS ARE SO CAREFREE. MUST BE NICE.
YOU SURE ARE ENJOYING THAT.
munch munch

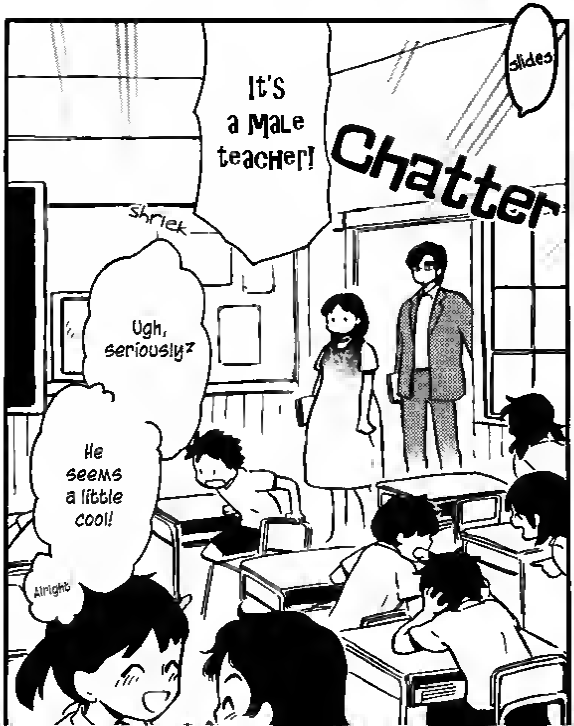

MEOW.
GOOD NIGHT, MIMI.

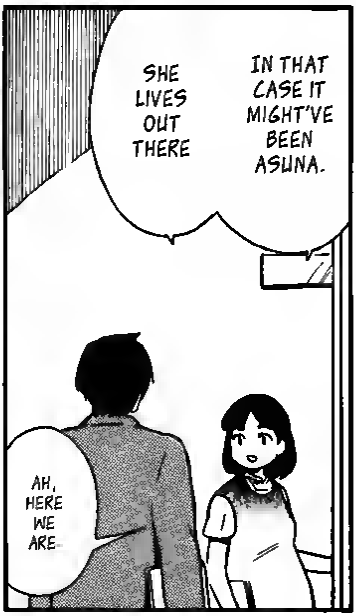


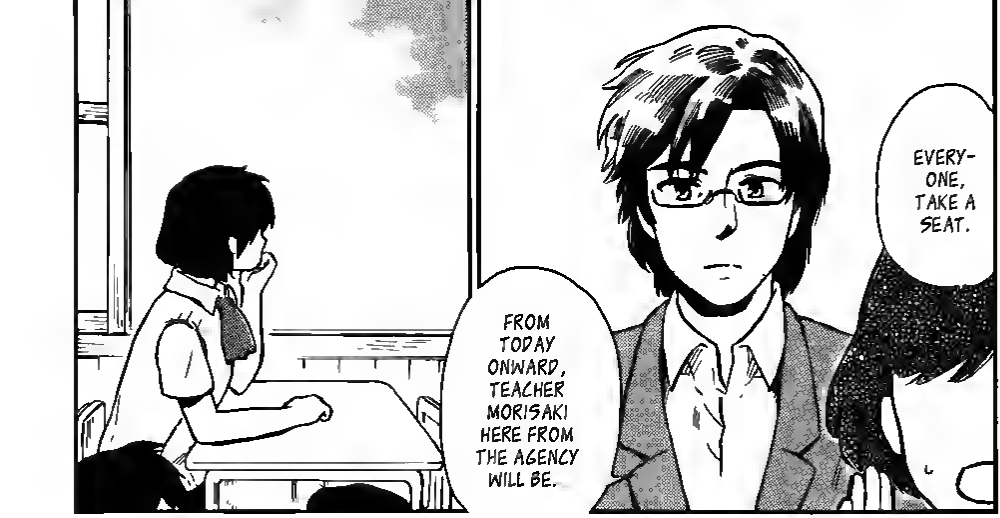
A LIGHT?

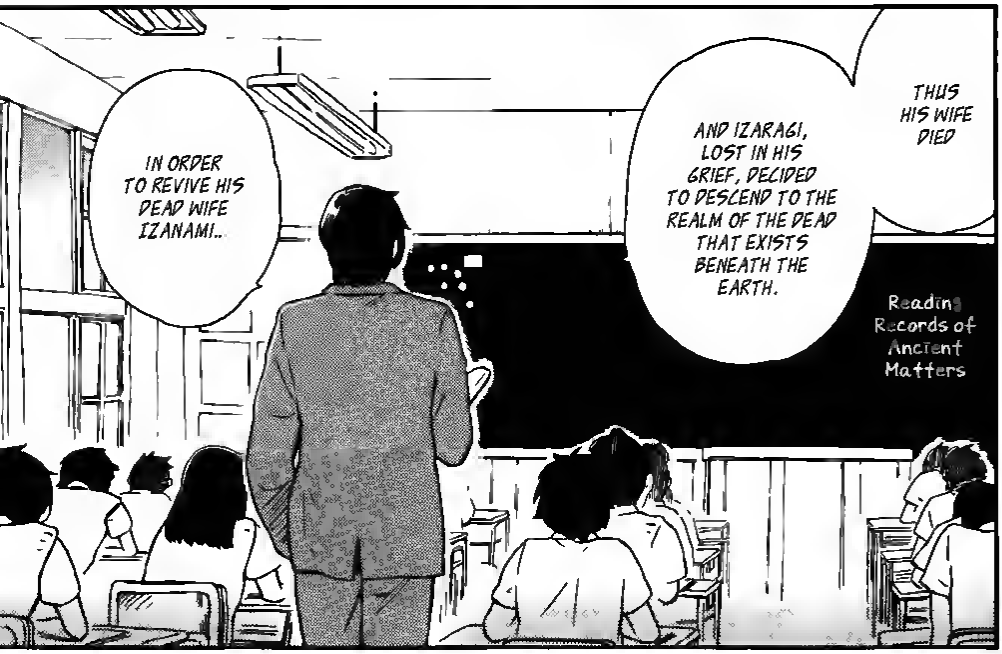

BY THE RAILWAY BRIDGE, ONE OF OUR STUDENTS?


OH MY— DON'T TELL ME SHE WAS HEADED TOWARDS THE MOUNTAIN?
BASED ON HER STATURE, I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT BE IN OUR YEAR.
NO, IT WAS JUST SOMEONE WHO WAS PASSING BY.


slides
It's a Male teacher!
Chatter
shriek
Ugh, seriously?
He seems a little cool!
Alright


SHE LIVES OUT THERE
IN THAT CASE IT MIGHT'VE BEEN ASUNA.
AH, HERE WE ARE.


FROM TODAY ONWARD, TEACHER MORISAKI HERE FROM THE AGENCY WILL BE.
EVERY-ONE, TAKE A SEAT.

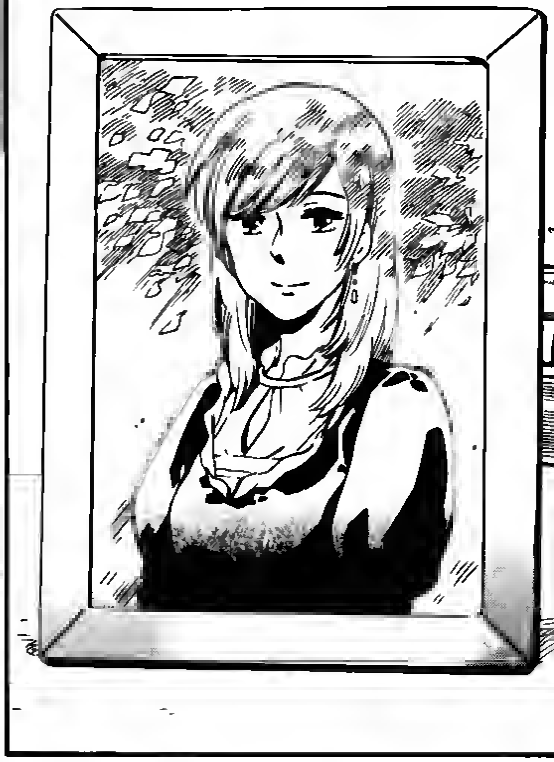

IN ORDER TO REVIVE HIS DEAD WIFE IZANAMI..
AND IZARAGI, LOST IN HIS GRIEF, DECIDED TO DESCEND TO THE REALM OF THE DEAD THAT EXISTS BENEATH THE EARTH.
THUS HIS WIFE DIED
Reading Records of Ancient Matters

THOUGHT THAT THE SECRET OF A PERSON'S DEATH LAY BENEATH THE EARTH
IN THIS WAY, PEOPLE HAVE SINCE ANCIENT TIMES,
THIS IS ONE PASSAGE FROM THE RECORDS OF ANCIENT MATTERS.

WHAT DOES EVERYONE THINK?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE ACTIONS OF IZANAGI WHO HAD LOST SOMEONE HE LOVED?
What?
chatter chatter
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD DO?
ASUNA?
...OH.
giggle
I'M SORRY
giggle
I WASN'T LISTENING
giggle

UH, UM... YESTERDAY I COULD SEE A BLUE LIGHT NEAR THE PEAK.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION.
I SEE.
Records of Ancient Matters
I'M SORRY FOR HOW I ACTED IN CLASS.
WELL, BEING DISTRACTED ISN'T ADMIRABLE.
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE INTERESTED IN NEAR THE MOUNTAIN?
EXCUSE ME...
PLEASE READ AND REVIEW THIS.
YES, SIR.

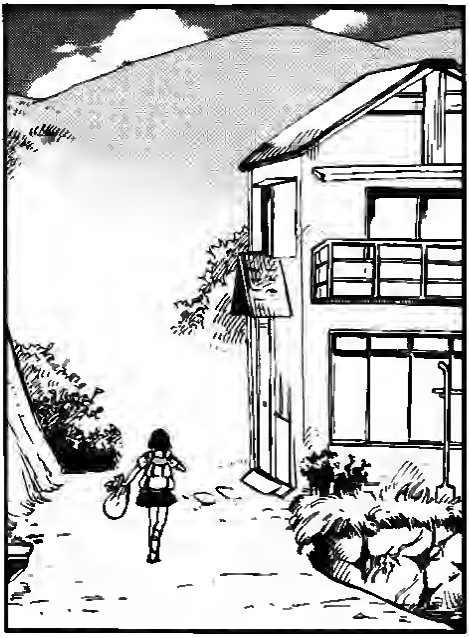
I wonder if that's his wife.



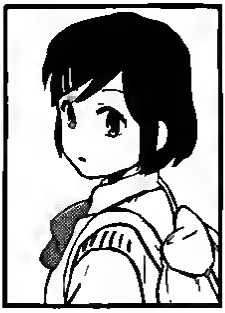
IT'S LIKELY THAT THE RUMORS OF BEARS APPEARING FREQUENTLY ARE BECAUSE OF THE GATE-KEEPER
A BLUE LIGHT HAS BEEN WITNESSED
YES, IT'S THE OBUCHI MOUNTAIN

FLAP
DISPATCH THE INVESTIGATION TEAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

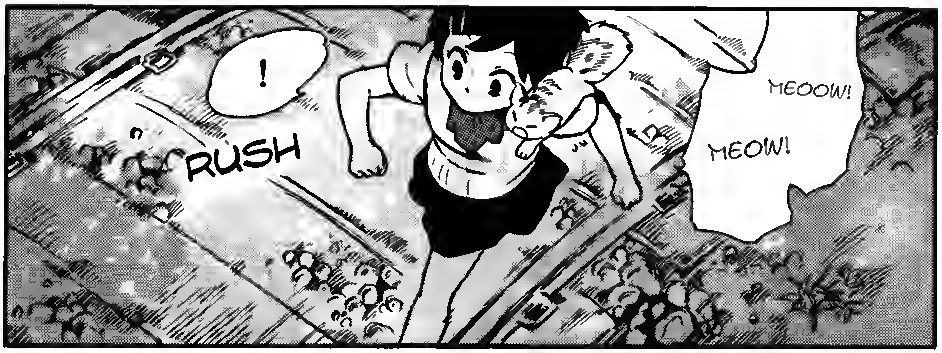
Ummm the key



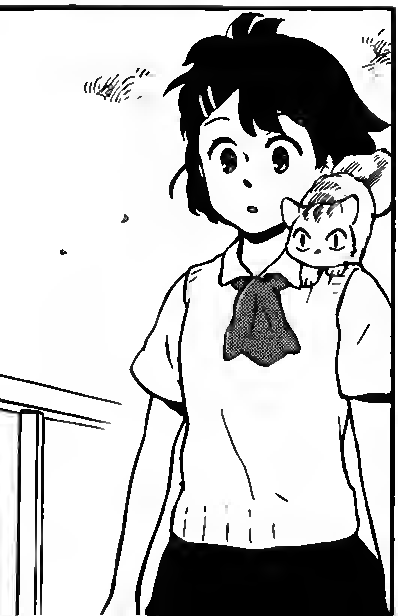
TICKER



I'M SO EXCITED!
WHAT COULD IT BE?
MEOW!
lands
MIMI!
HEY, DID YOU ALSO SEE IT? THE BLUE LIGHT!
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!


!
RUSH
MEOOW!
MEOW!

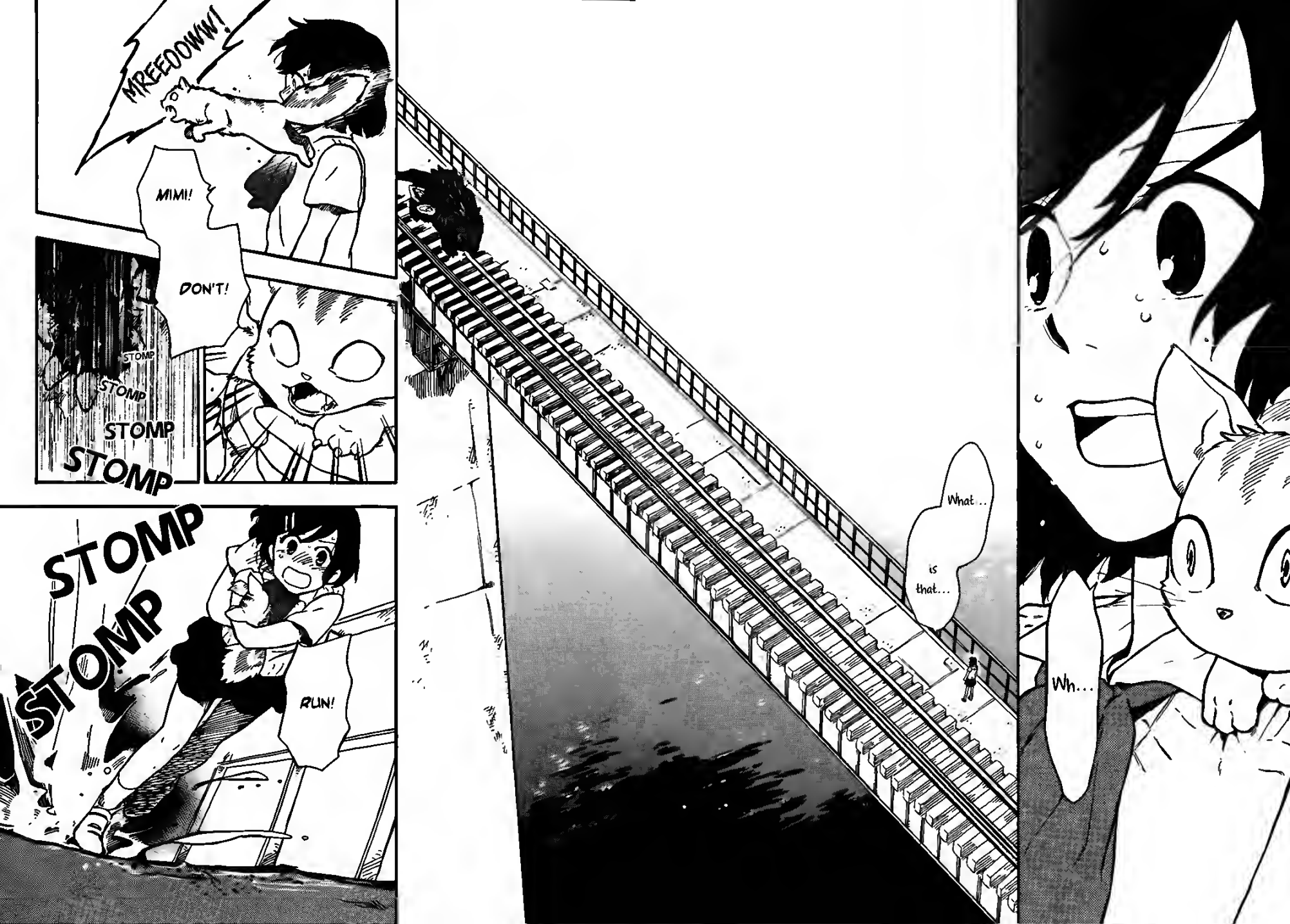
It's awfully quiet.
There are no birds singing.



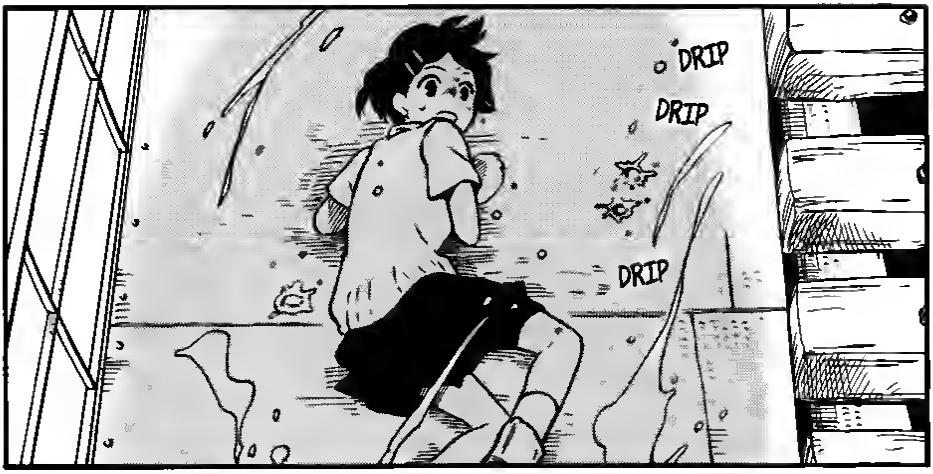
MEOW!
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND MEOWS

WHAT IS IT ALREADY!
MEOW!

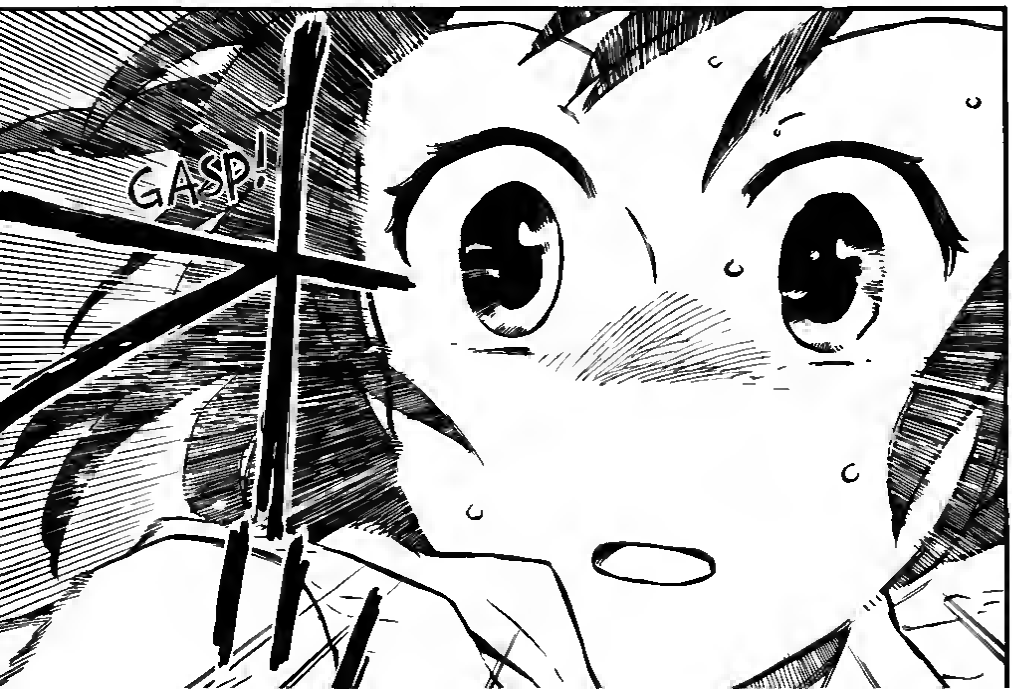
ba-
dump
Bash

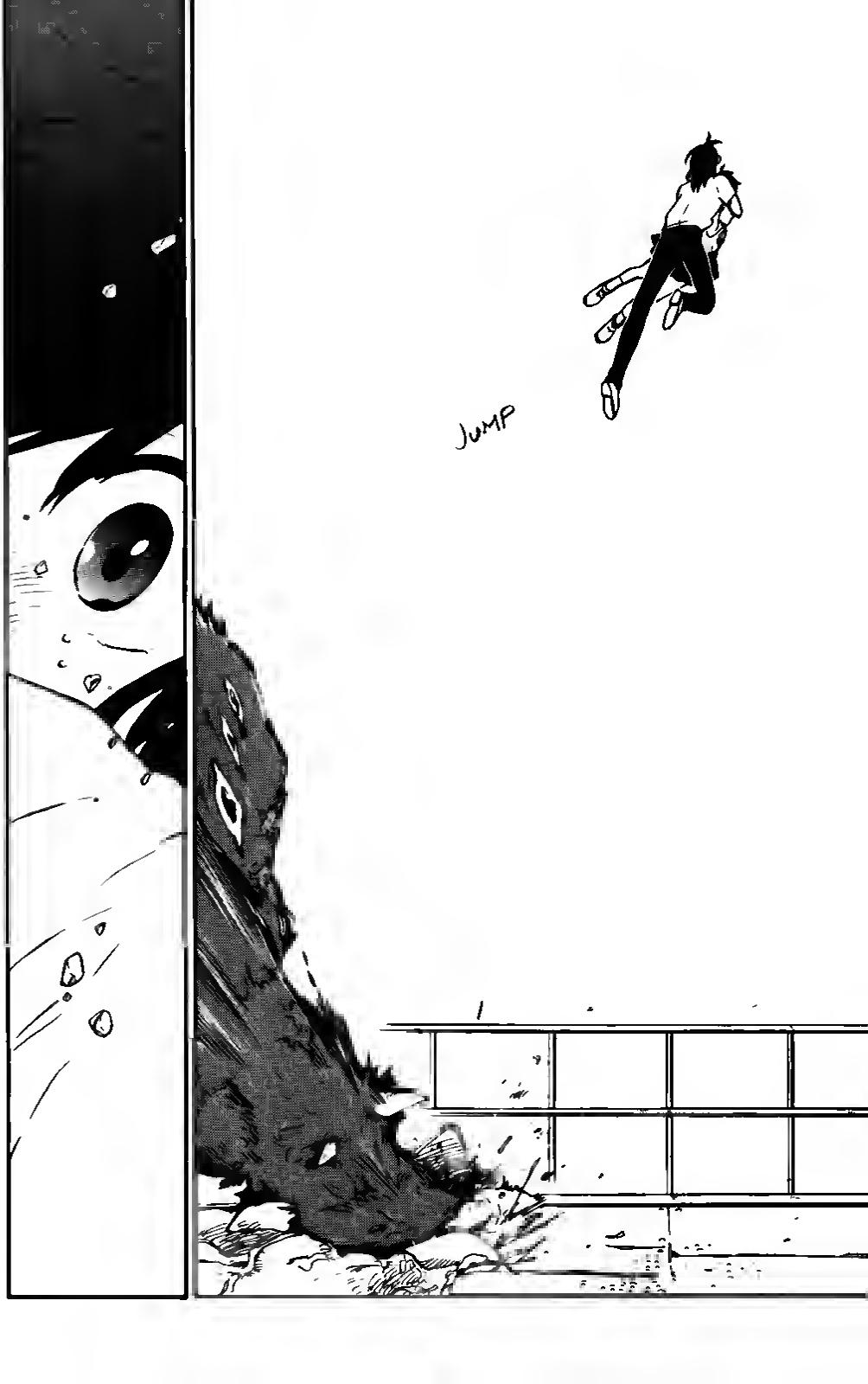

MREEOOWW!
MIMI!
DON'T!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
RUN!
What...
is that...
Wh...

GRRR...

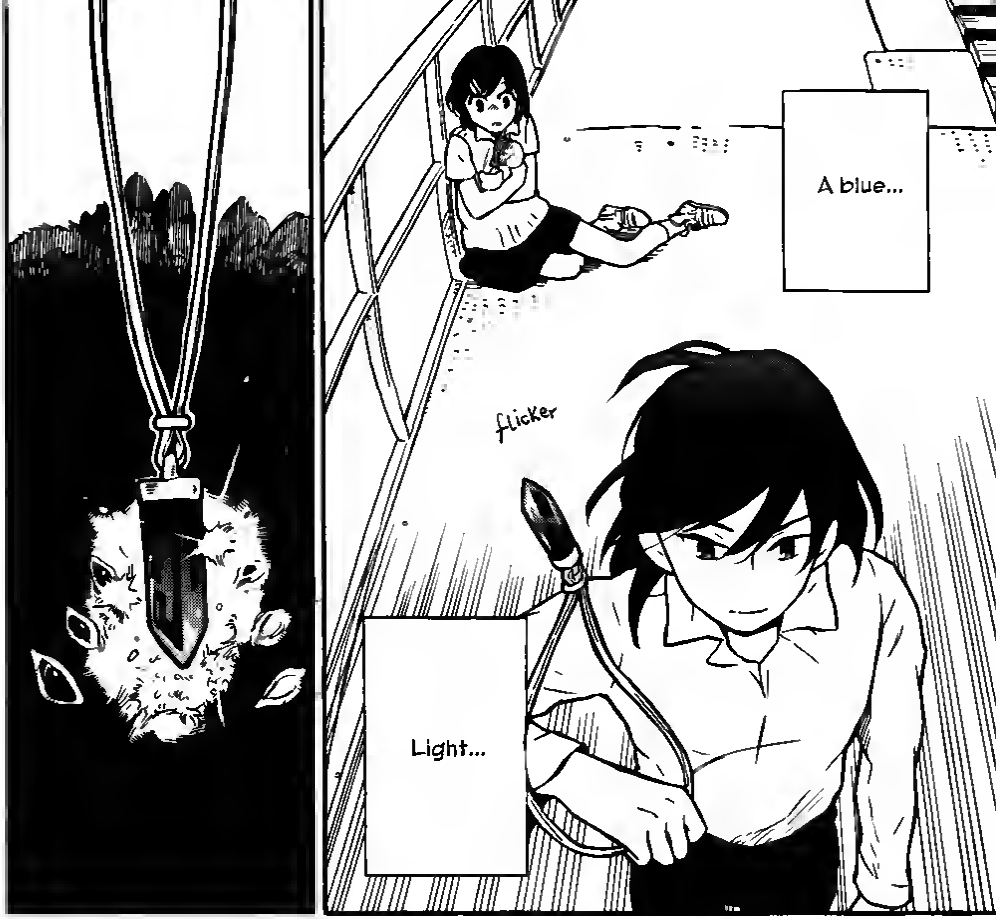

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

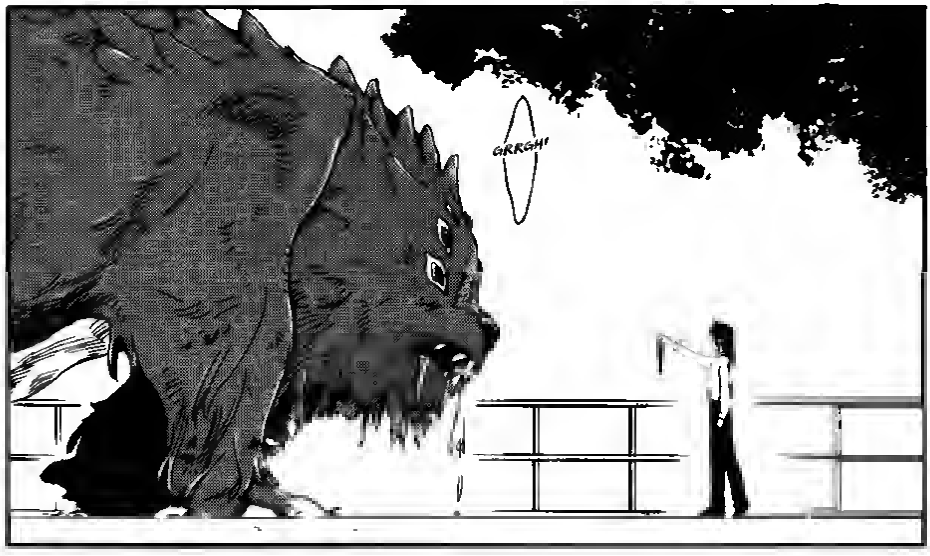
fWoosh


GASP!


JUMP

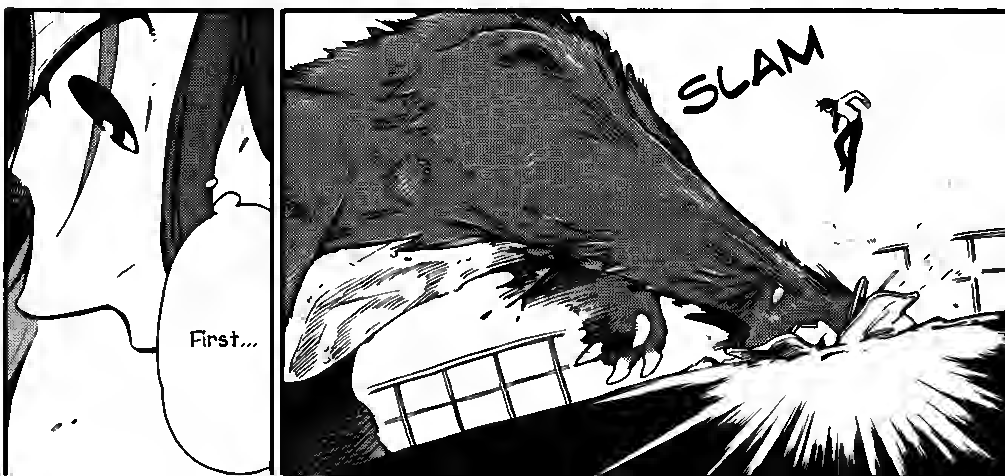
Who..?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
STAY HERE.
Ah....!


A blue...
flicker
Light...


GRRGH!

GLOOP
GR!
GRR
Slides
drip
drip
drip
drip
drip
THAT'S ITS LIFE-SPAN.

ROAR
ROAR
ROAR
THIS
FOR CREATURES REMAINING ABOVE THE EARTH
ROAR
ROAR
THE END!

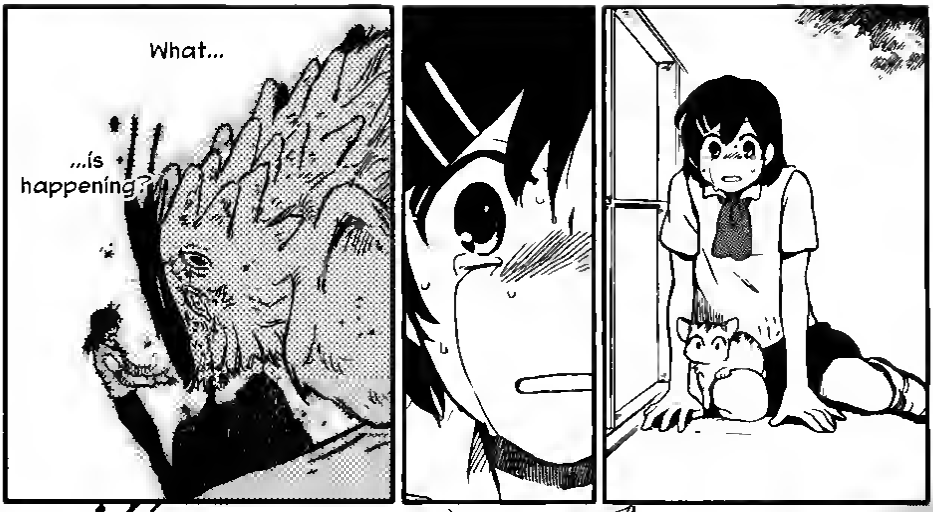

First...
SLAM

STEP
STEP
I've got to stop its feet.
ROAR
ROAR
HI
whoosh

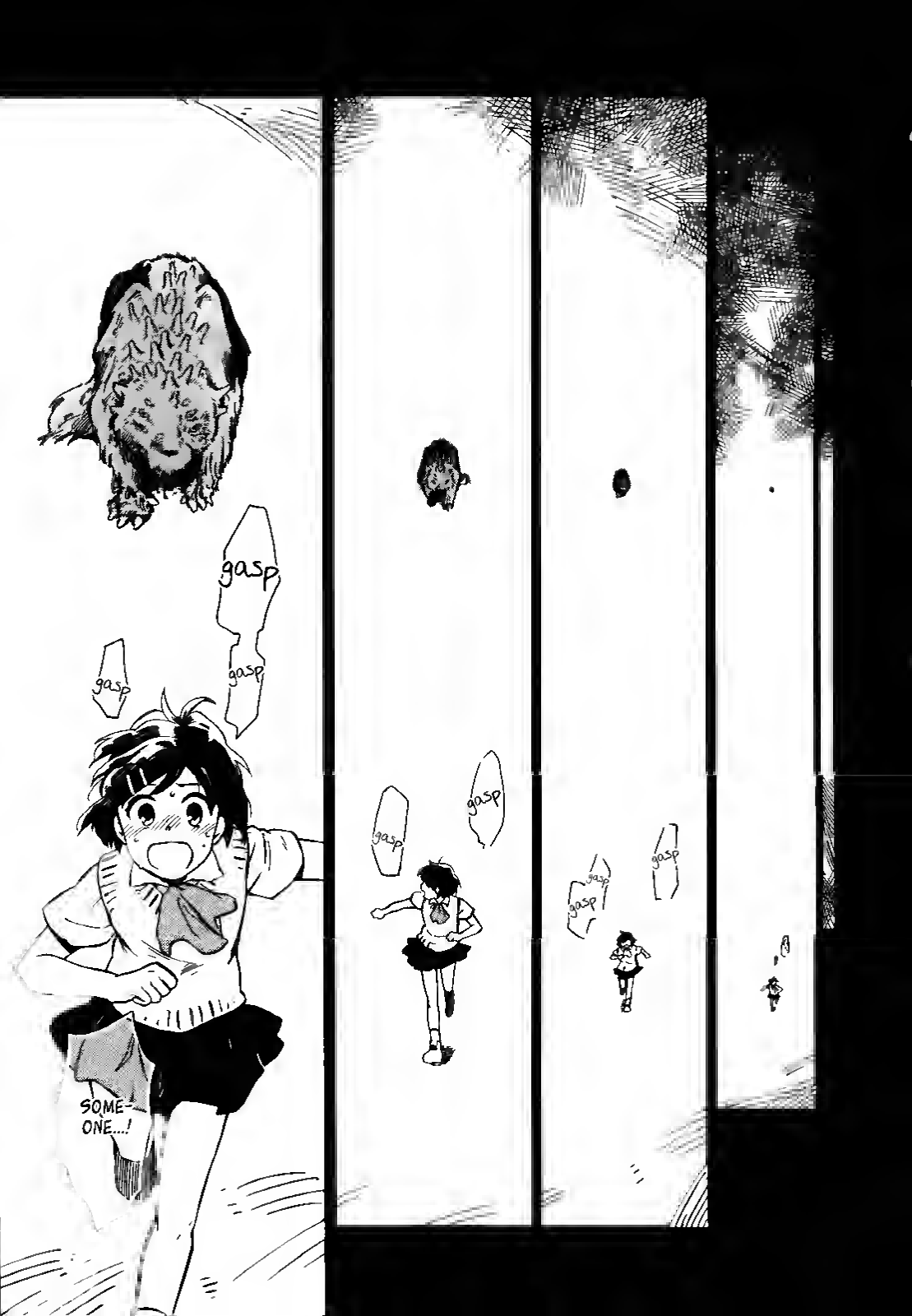
SLIDE
...!
thud
thud
...damn...
COUGH
Smack!

Ah...
Don't..
Stop...
thud
thud
STOP!
...DONT KILL HIM!
STOP IT!!
Shine

SLASH


What...
...is happening?

stand
A
dream...?


gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
SOME-
ONE...!

AH!
It's alright...
See...
No one is following you...
...n't
Don't cry...
Ugh, no way,
Don't come!
Noo!
...who...?
Rest now...
The scary things have disappeared...
Close your eyes...
That's right. You're a good kid...

SHINE

...Dad...
sleepy

GOOD NIGHT.

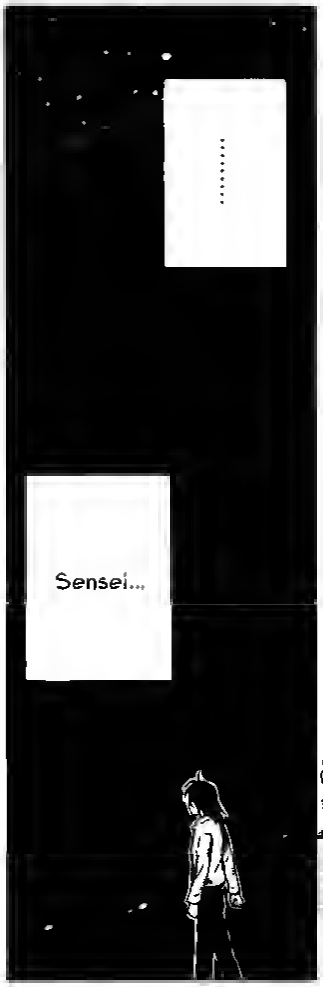
.....

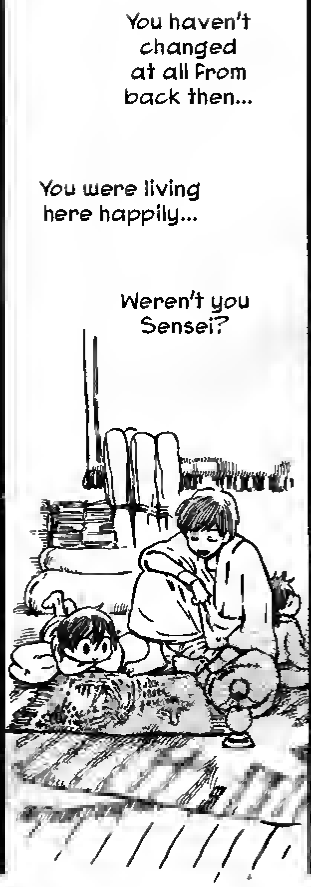
!

MEOW!
THANKS FOR SHOWING ME THE WAY HERE

THIS STONE...
THIS CHILD'S FATHER...
CAN I ASK YOU ONE MORE THING?

tap
tap
...I MUST BE PRETTY LUCKY.


.....
Sensei...


You haven't changed at all from back then...
You were living here happily...
Weren't you Sensei?

BEING ABLE TO SEE YOUR SMILING FACE AGAIN
SENSEI...

VSSSHHH
...THIS IS...

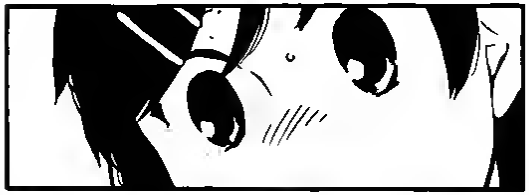
A DEAD BODY?
IT'S GOT TO BE A QUETZALTOR.
PLANTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LIVE IN THESE TIMES ARE GROWING FROM THE DEAD BODY.
I DON'T THINK IT CAN BE ANYTHING BUT THE QUETZALTORS INFLUENCE.

COULD IT HAVE BEEN DONEBY A HUMAN? ANY BULLET WOUNDS?
NONE.
THIS IS PRETTY LARGE-SCALE. EVEN WITHOUT ANY MACHINERY, BEING ABLE TO DO SUCH A CLEAN JOB...
ITS MOUTH WAS LOPPED OFF AND THAT'S THOUGHT TO BE THE CAUSE OF DEATH
WE ALSO DISCOVERED THE REST OF THE BODY WITH THE SAME THREE SLASHES.
...I UNDER-STAND. HURRY UP THE RETRIEVAL.
YES, SIR.

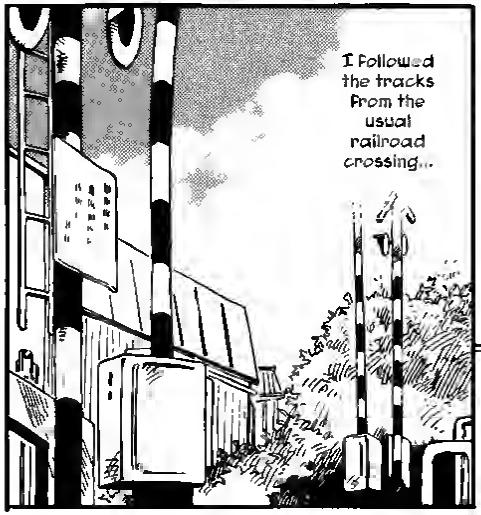
IS ASUNA WATASE ABSENT?
ASUNA.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
...
...
...
TH.

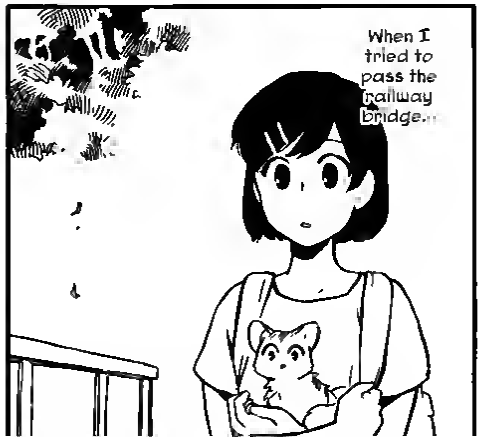
THIEF!?
MUDDY
!
MIMI!
MIMI!!
YOU CAT ACCOM-PLICE!
MEOW!
PAW PRINTS
DO YOU KNOW WHO DID THIS??
MUD
WHAT HAPPENED YESTER-DAY....
OH NO, WITH MY UNIFORM STILL ON.

NO WAY. THERE'S BLOOD



DAD'S STONE.
AND
A HAND-KER-CHIEF?


I followed the tracks from the usual railroad crossing...


When I tried to pass the railway bridge...

In front of the house I saw the blue light again.

That big guy isn't here...
but,
after that...

slowly

MIMI!
WAIT!

There's someone there.
hop
hop
MEOW!
WHAT, JUST YOU?
IS IT ALRIGHT FOR YOU NOT TO BE WITH THAT KID?
UM——!

THIS...
IS THIS YOURS?
...YOU REALLY CAME HERE.
YOU HAD TO CROSS THAT BRIDGE RIGHT?
WEREN'T YOU SCARED?
BECAUSE THIS IS MY PLACE.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
IF I WANT TO COME, THEN I'LL COME.

THAT'S THE SAME AS ME!
WHAT!
GRAB
AAAAAAA?!
WHEN I WAS SMALL MY SENSEI TOLD ME ABOUT IT.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO COME HERE AND SEE IT.
OH BUT, DID I NEED YOUR PERMIS-SION TO COME HERE?
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE, JUST LET ME TREAT YOUR INJURY!
SPINS
HUH, INJURY?
splurt

YOU'LL HAVE TO CHANGE THE DRESSING AGAIN TOMORROW.
CAN I MEET YOU HERE AFTER LUNCH?
YEAH, RIGHT HERE.
UH,
...?
YOU'RE RETTY GOOD AT THIS.
ACTUALLY IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE IT LOOKED AT IN A HOSPITAL.
I'LL BE HERE WHILE I CAN.
...Oh,
...uh uum.
His eyes are blue....

HM? HMM.
SHUN ARE YOU A FOREIGNER?
Like the muddy Feet thing
YOU CAN CALL ME SHUN.
IS IT FAR AWAY?
I WONDER IF YOU'VE EVER HEARD OF AGARTHA
I USED TO THINK SO.
I GUESS IT'S NOT SO FAR THAT YOU CAN NEVER GO THERE.
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S THAT SORT OF THING.
IT'S LIKE WHEN SCENERY YOU'VE NEVER SEEN STAYS ALWAYS FAR AWAY
OR WHEN YOU END UP NEVER BEING ABLE TO DO THINGS YOU HAVEN'T DONE

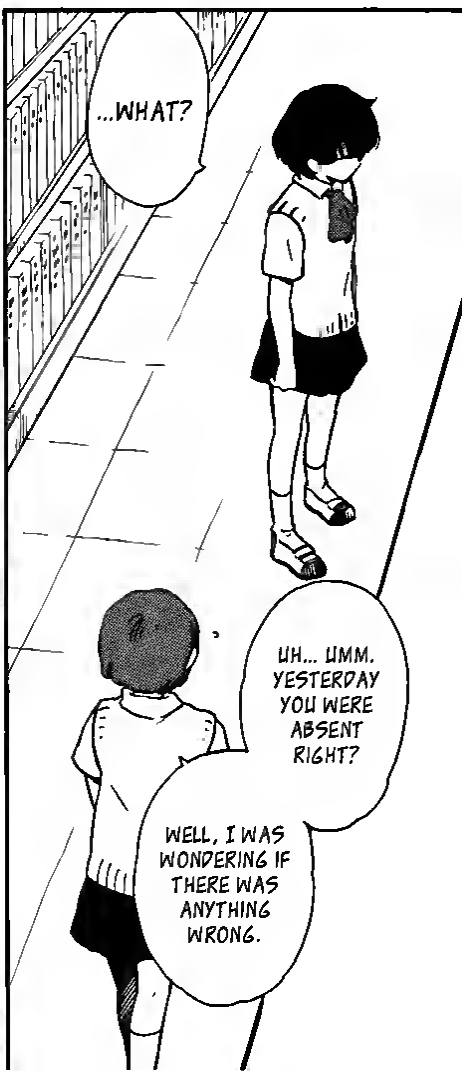
YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
Although I ate some
GRUMBLE
Shun
AH!
COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING SINCE YESTERDAY.
ahaha
I'LL MAKE SOMETHING FOR YOU TOMORROW.
THANKS.
HEY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME.
ASUNA!
ASUNA WATASE!

IT'S THE NAME OF A CUTE BIRD.
LIBRARY
I wonder if it's a foreign word.
There isn't any mention of a bird called Asuna
BIRDS OF THE WORLD

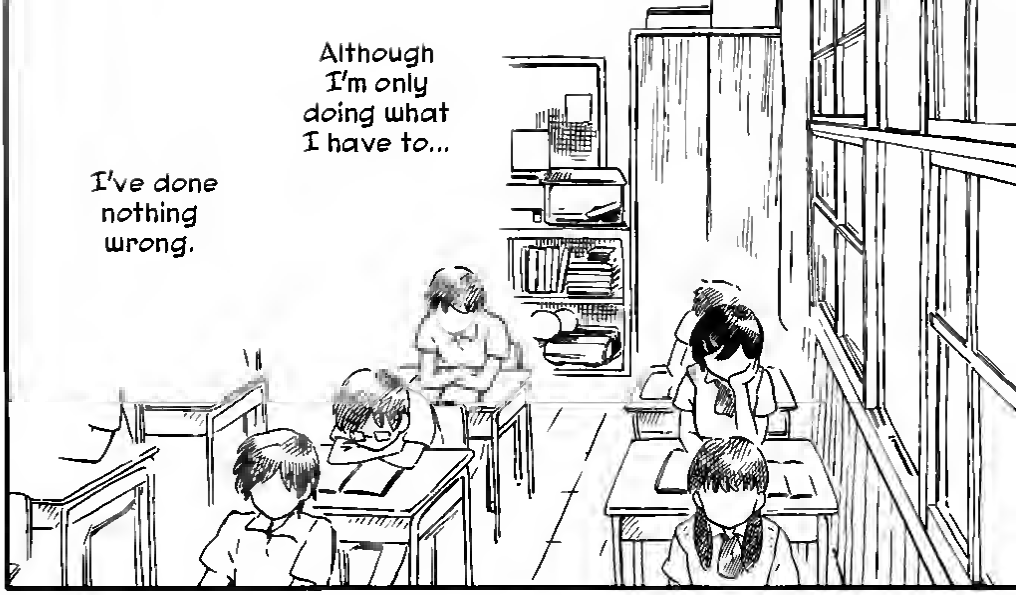
TODAY ASUNA CAME BUT,
DIDN'T SHE SEEM PRETTY HEALTHY.
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT SHE WAS PROBABLY SKIPPING CLASS.
MUST BE NICE FOR HER BEING ABLE TO DO WHATEVER SINCE HER PARENTS AREN'T AROUND
ASUNA!
OH GOOD, I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
UMM YESTER-DAY...

ASUNA?

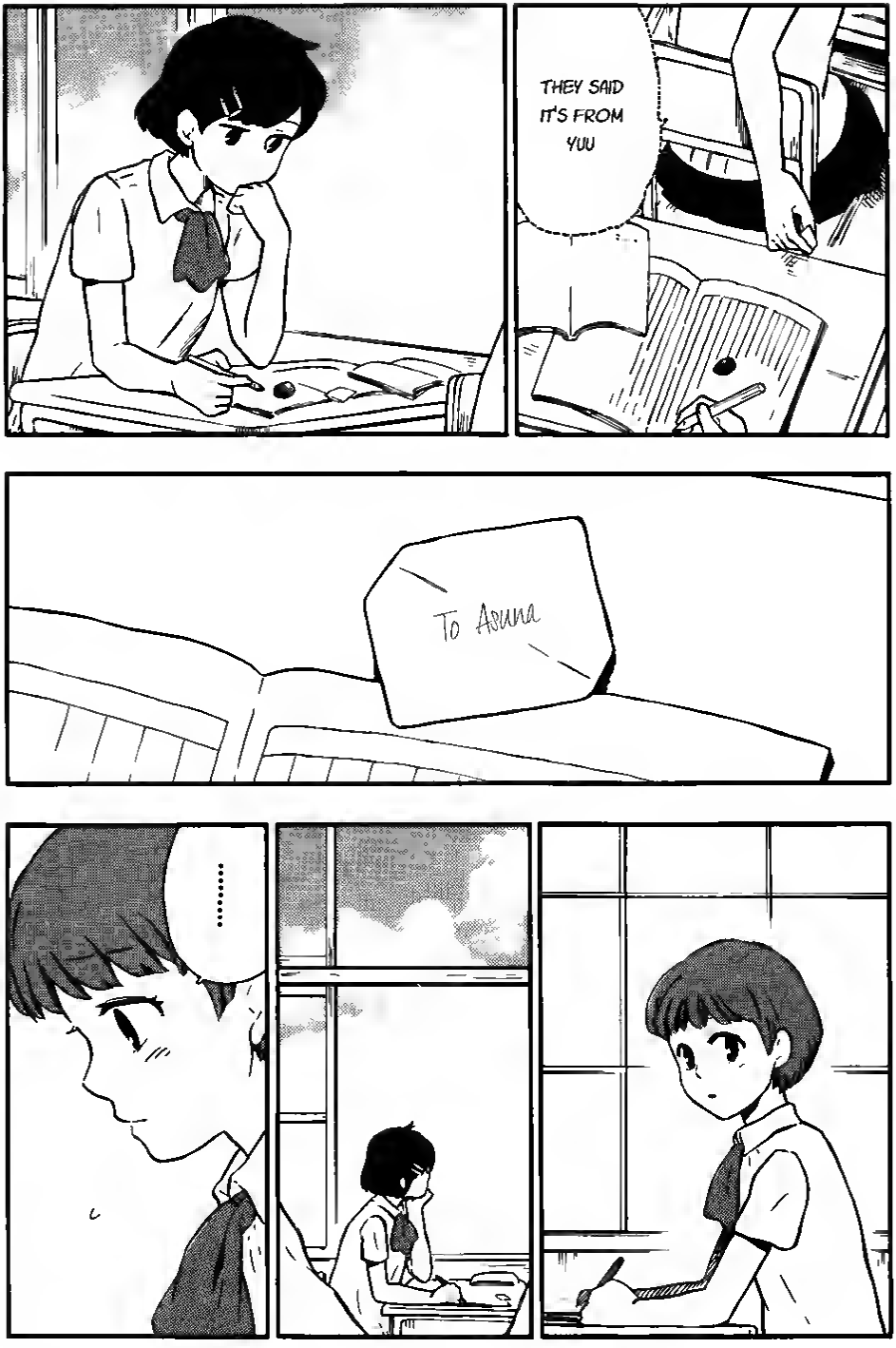
BECAUSE MR. MORISAKI ASKED ABOUT YOU I ENDED UP TELLING HIM ABOUT YOUR HOUSEHOLD...
LIKE HOW YOU DO ALMOST ALL OF THE HOUSE-WORK AND THAT IT'S HARD ON YOU.
SO I THOUGHT TO SAY SORRY FOR TALKING ABOUT YOUR AFFAIRS.

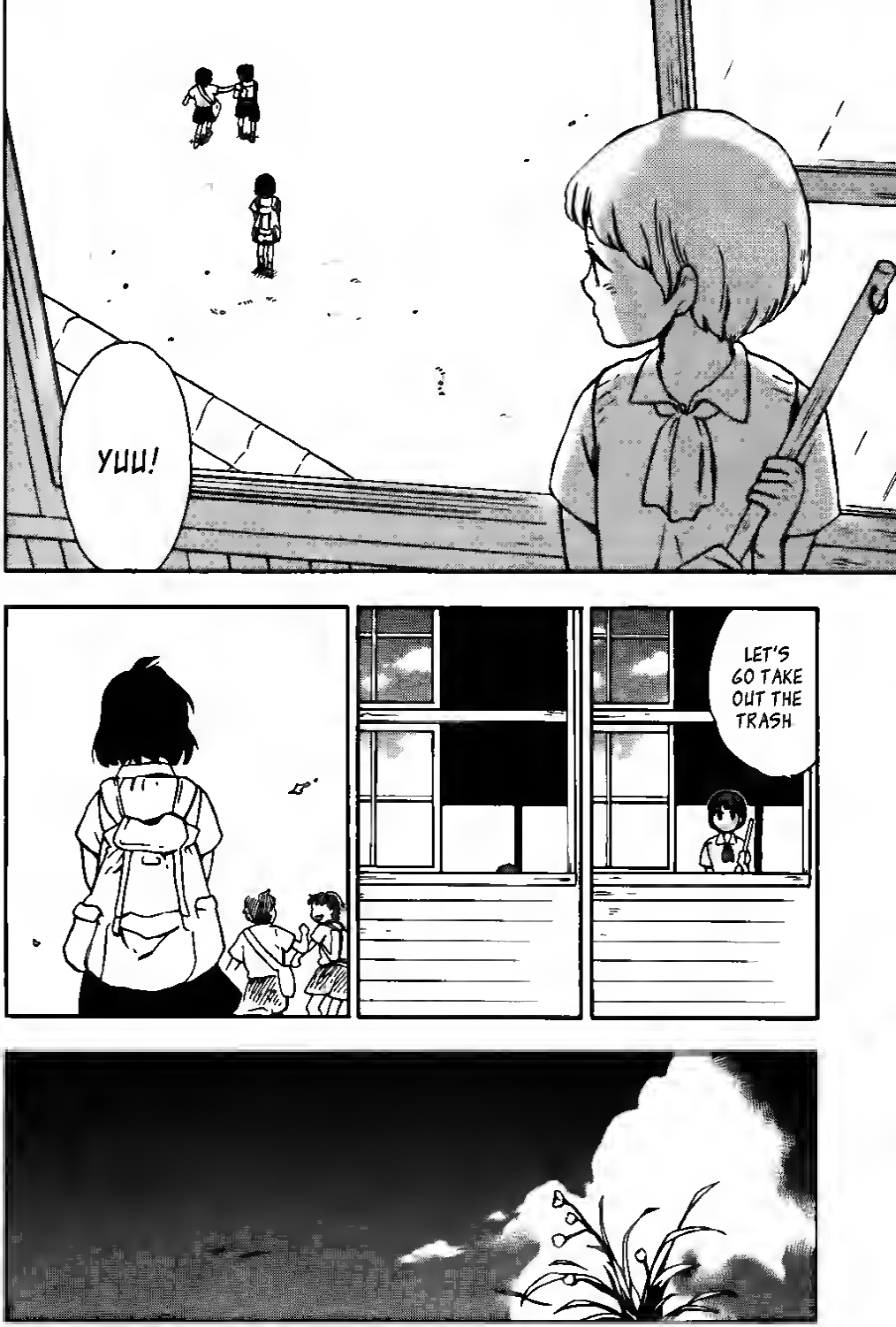

...WHAT?
UH... UMM. YESTERDAY YOU WERE ABSENT RIGHT?
WELL, I WAS WONDERING IF THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGIZE, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING AT ALL!
ASU...
It can't be helped.
Mom is busy.
Dad is gone.


Although I'm only doing what I have to...
I've done nothing wrong.

scratch
scratch

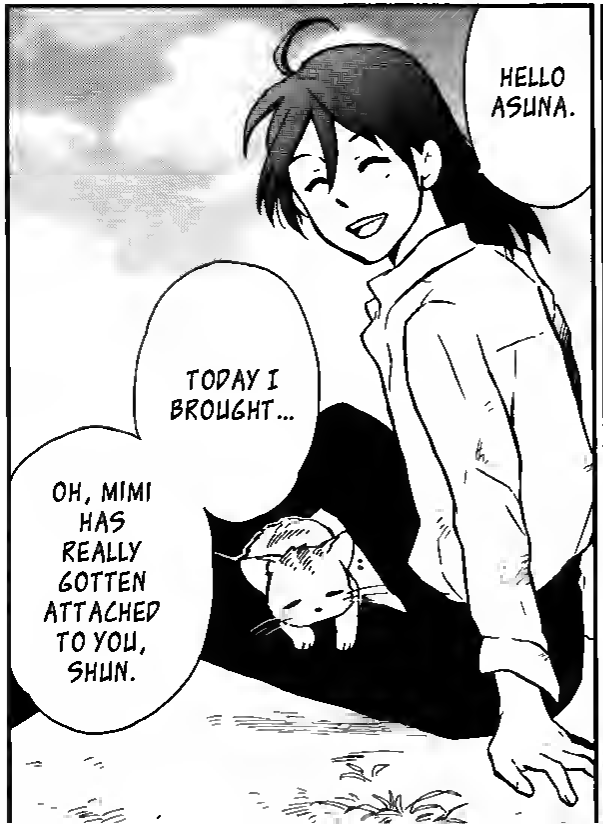

THEY SAID IT'S FROM YUU
To Asuna
.....


YUU!
LET'S GO TAKE OUT THE TRASH

I'M BACK!
WELCOME HOME, MOM!
!
Mom's home!
MO...
breathes
SHUT
cough
cough

SHUN!!

WIPES

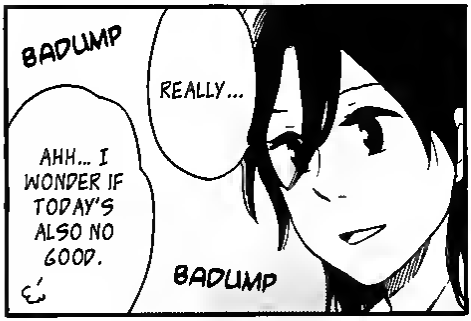

HELLO ASUNA.
TODAY I BROUGHT...
OH, MIMI HAS REALLY GOTTEN ATTACHED TO YOU, SHUN.

HELLO!

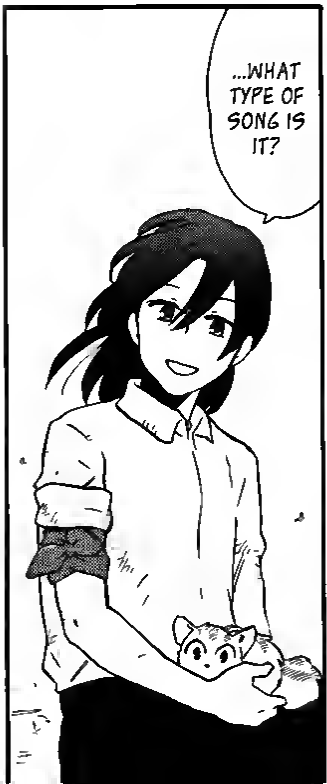
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NOT ENOUGH BANDAGES, I DIDN'T REALIZE...
SORRY FOR USING A SCARF
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'LL HEAL FASTER THIS WAY.
SNIFF
ASUNA WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO HERE?
UMMM, LISTEN TO THE RADIO...
"RADIO"?
ehehe
THE RADIO OF THE "MAGIC STONE"!

BADUMP
...YOUR FATHER?

HE DIED WHEN I WAS SMALL.

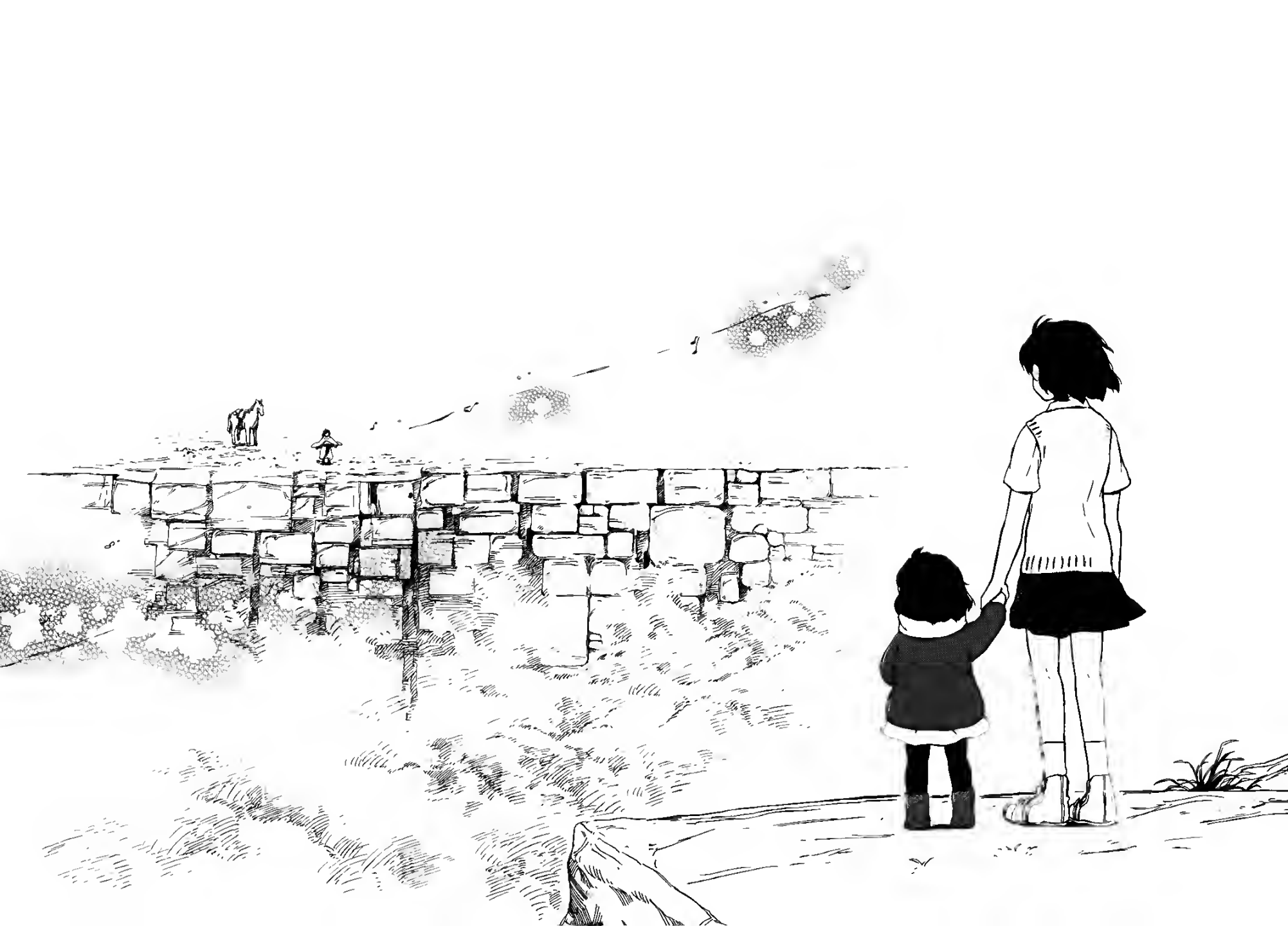

BADUMP
REALLY...
AHH... I WONDER IF TODAY'S ALSO NO GOOD.
BADUMP

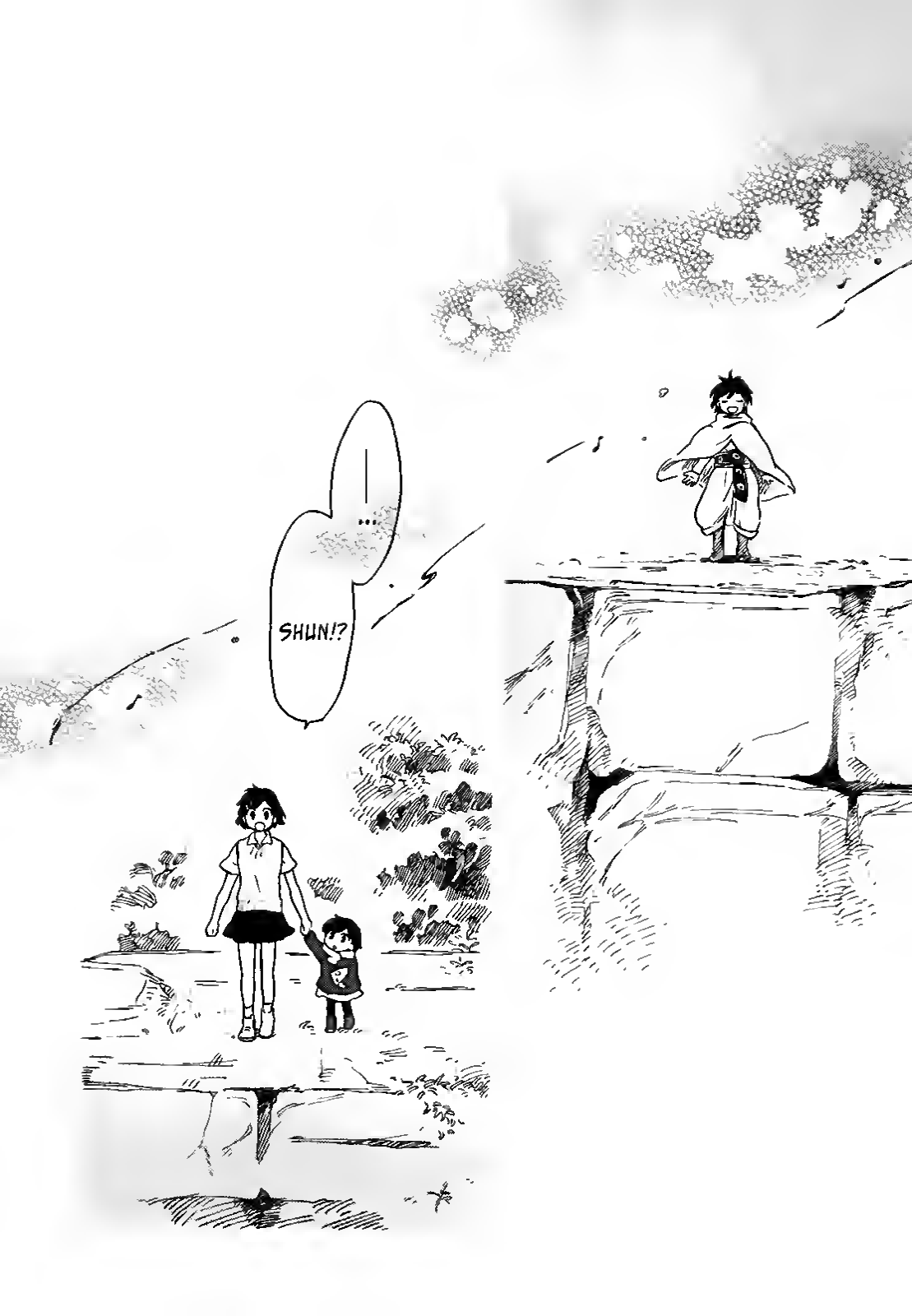
ALTHOUGH, MY DAD GAVE IT TO ME
IN PLACE OF THE DIODE.


...WHAT TYPE OF SONG IS IT?

I WAS ABLE TO HEAR A MYSTERIOUS SONG HERE ONCE.
IT RESEMBLED THE SONG THAT MY FATHER USED TO SING.
I WANTED TO HEAR IT AGAIN AND KEPT COMING BACK HERE.

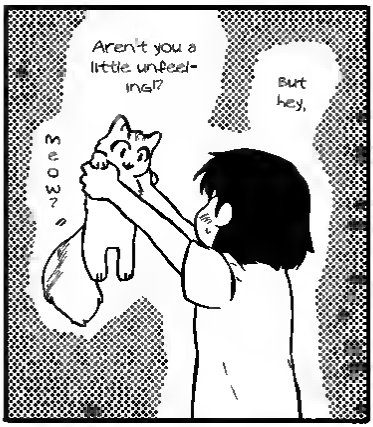
It was like...
I WONDER WHAT IT WAS LIKE?
the heart of some-one...
From a faraway land had become a song.



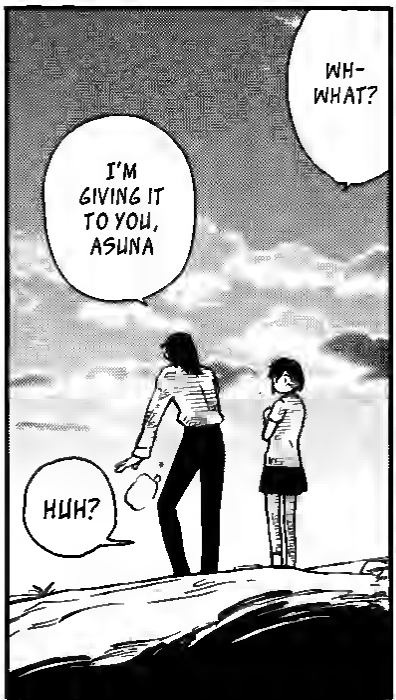

!
...
SHUN!?

HM?
...SING FOR ME
ASUNA.
I...

Right Mimi? Just completely forgot
I see
.....


Aren't you a little unfeeling?
But hey,
mew?

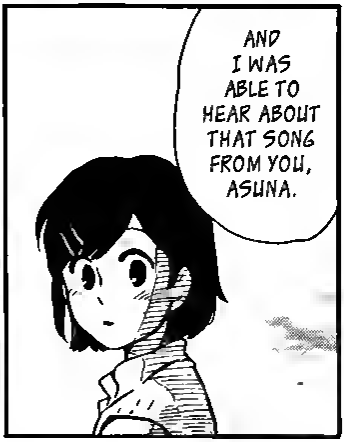
CLEAN FORGOT!
WOW I JUST
I FORGOT IT! BEFORE THIS I COULDN'T REMEMBER IT AT ALL.
jumps


WH-WHAT?
I'M GIVING IT TO YOU, ASUNA
HUH?

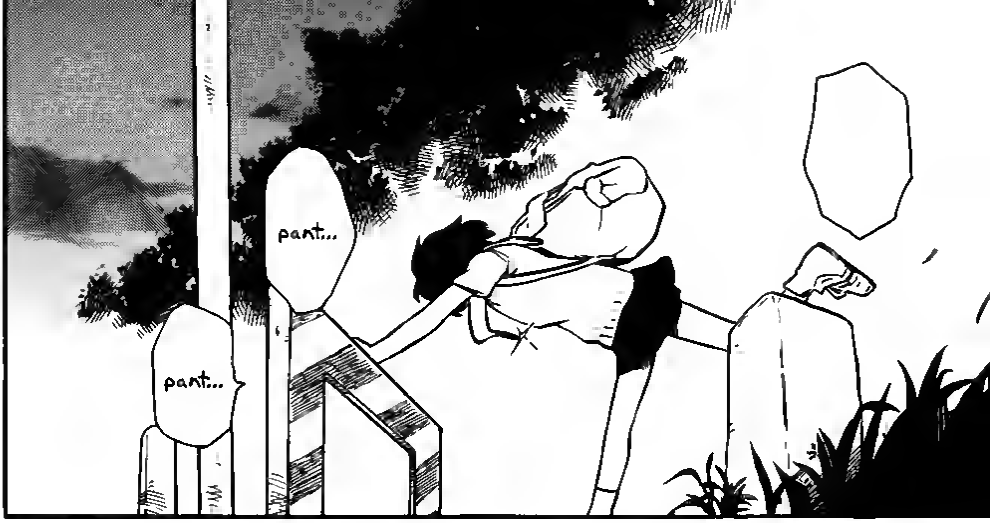
!

I MUST BE REALLY LUCKY!
I SAW WHAT I WANTED TO SEE.
I WAS ABLE TO MEET THE PERSON I WANTED TO MEET.

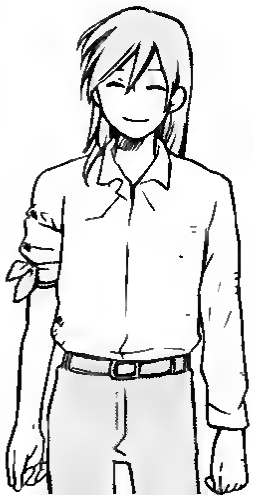
...SHUN DO YOU KNOW THAT SONG...


AND I WAS ABLE TO HEAR ABOUT THAT SONG FROM YOU, ASUNA.

HUH?
.....?
...IF THE TIME COMES WHEN YOU LEARN THE MEANING OF THAT SONG,
IF THE TIME COMES WHEN YOU WAVER ON YOUR OWN PATH,
SO THAT YOU CAN ENDURE THE STORM ADVANCING FROM BEFORE.
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD



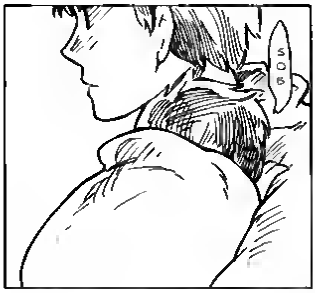
A blessing on your life

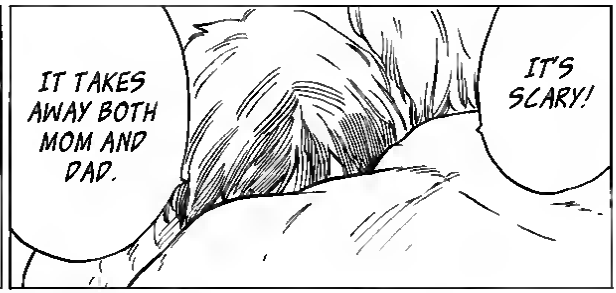


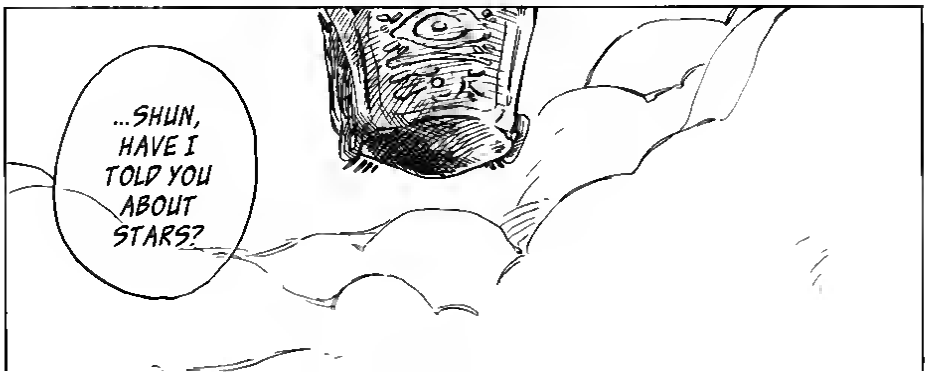
.....
Gasp!
.....
MEOW.

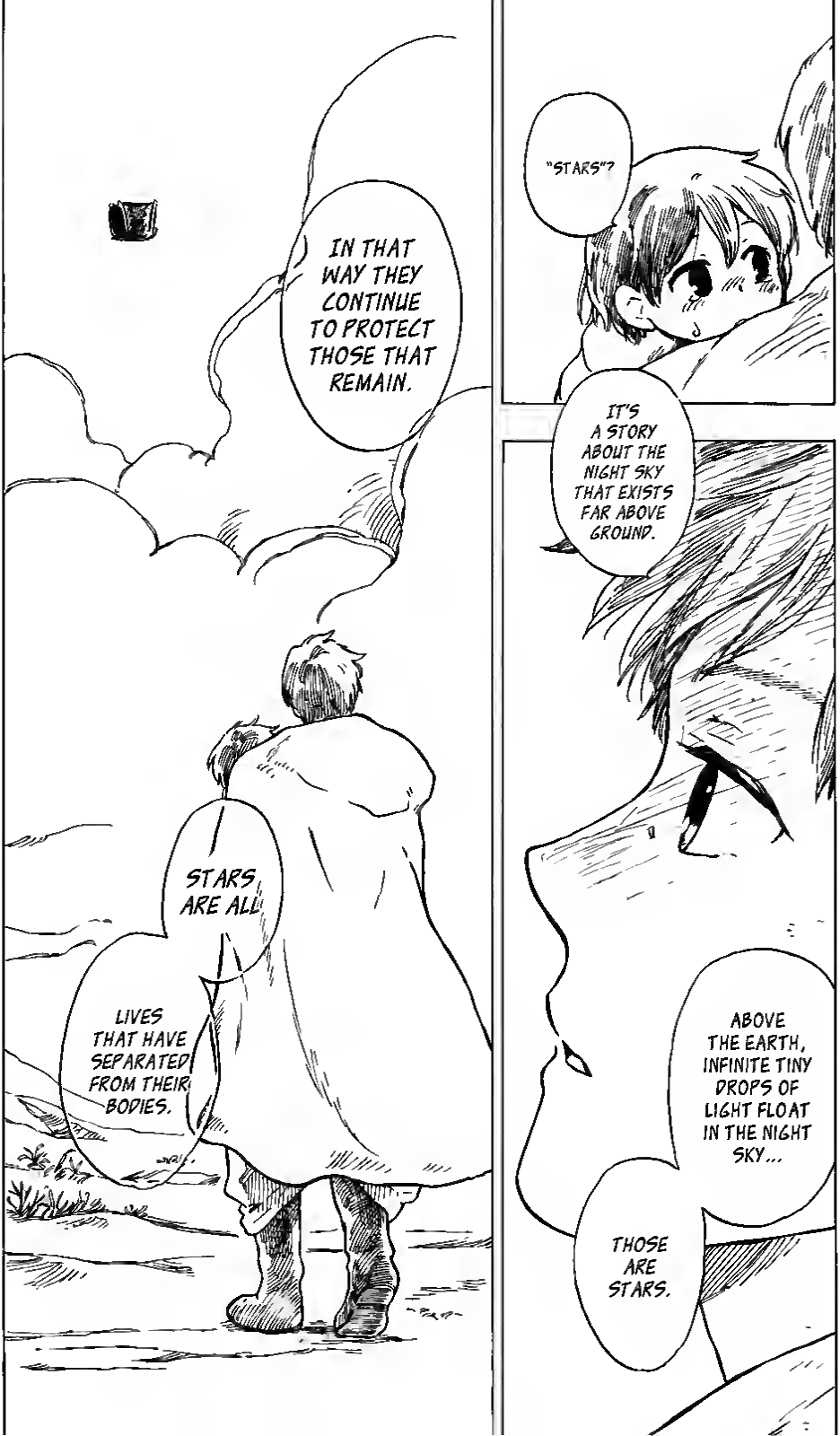
YOU WERE GIVEN A NAME, HUH.
MIMI,
SOMEHOW TAKE ASUNA TO GOOD PLACES.
WEREN'T YOU WITH ASUNA?
IS TEACHER ALSO THERE...
Shun,
Look up.
...THE STARS
HOW PRETTY
I WONDER WHERE MY FAMILY IS

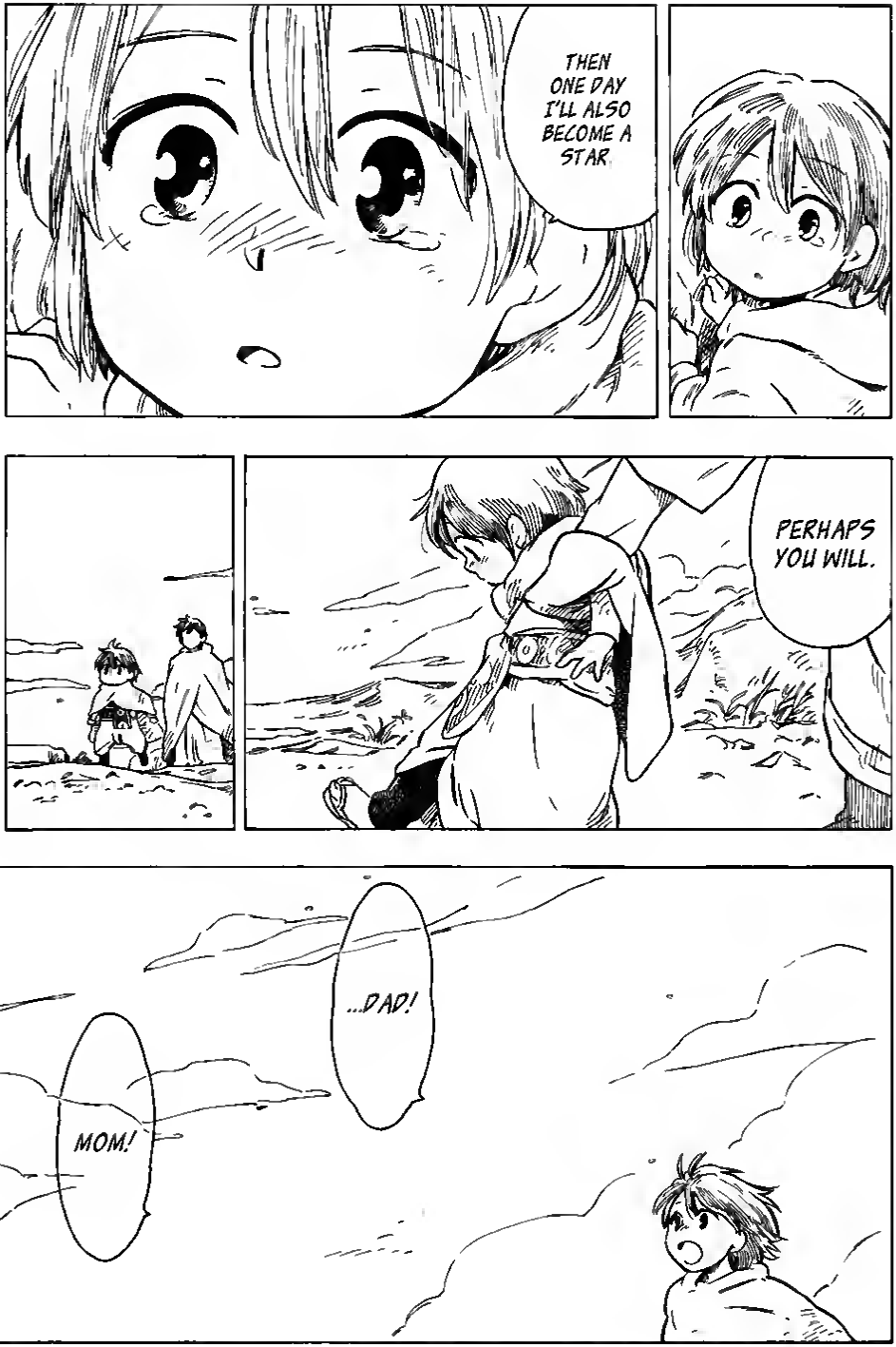
SNIFF
SNIFF
THE VIMARNA IS GOING, SHUN.

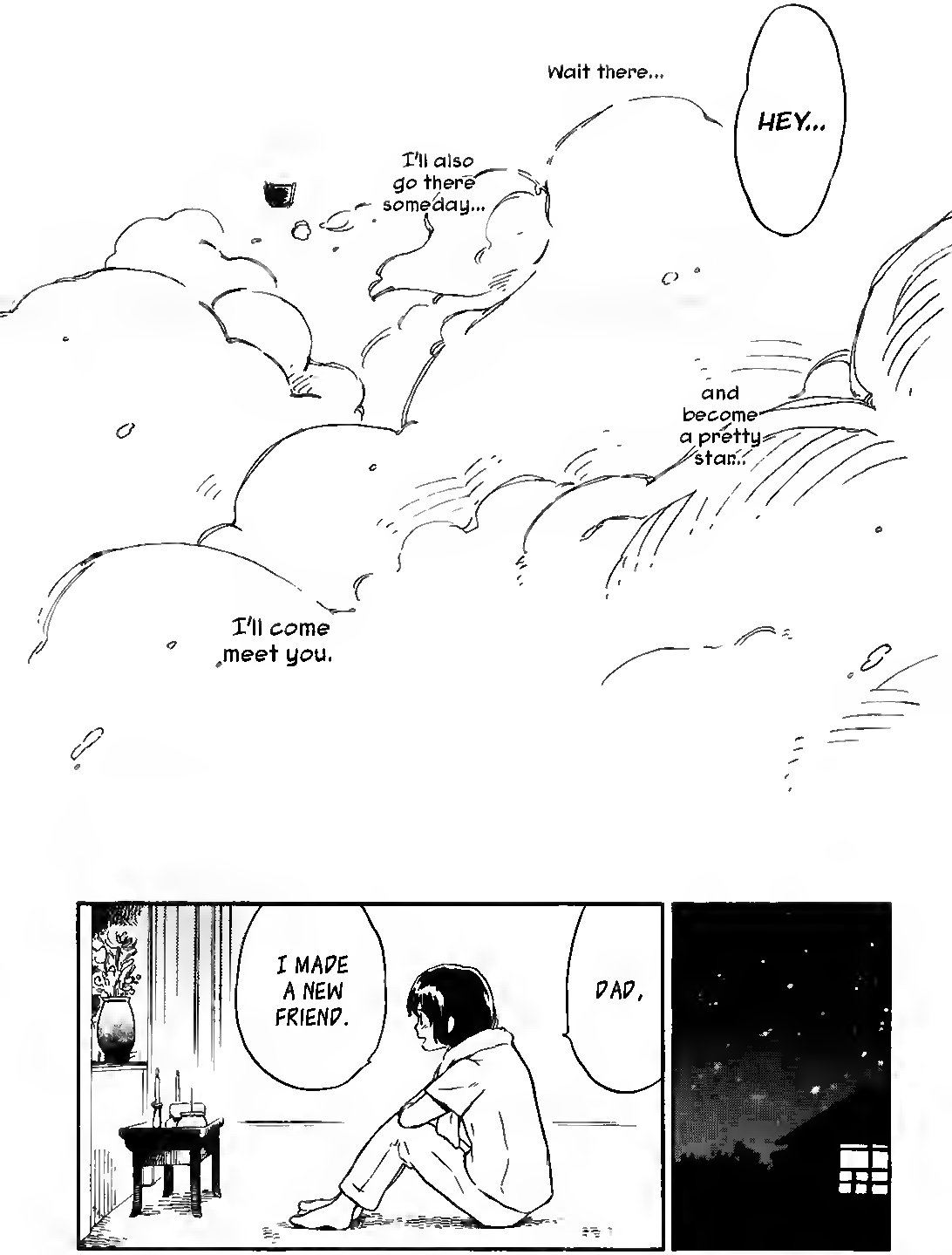

SOB


IT TAKES AWAY BOTH MOM AND DAD.
IT'S SCARY!


...SHUN, HAVE I TOLD YOU ABOUT STARS?


"STARS"?
IT'S A STORY ABOUT THE NIGHT SKY THAT EXISTS FAR ABOVE GROUND.
ABOVE THE EARTH, INFINITE TINY DROPS OF LIGHT FLOAT IN THE NIGHT SKY...
THOSE ARE STARS.
IN THAT WAY THEY CONTINUE TO PROTECT THOSE THAT REMAIN.
STARS ARE ALL
LIVES THAT HAVE SEPARATED FROM THEIR BODIES.


THEN ONE DAY I'LL ALSO BECOME A STAR.
PERHAPS YOU WILL.
...DAD!
MOM!


HEY...
Wait there...
I'll also go there someday...
and become a pretty star...
I'll come meet you.
I MADE A NEW FRIEND.
DAD,

IT SEEMED LIKE HE KNEW YOUR SONG DAD.
IF I SEE HIM TOMORROW.
I'LL HAVE HIM SING IT FOR ME.

COUGH

Hoshi o Ou Komodo
by Shinkai Makoto
& Mitani Tomoko
Raws: Zippy
Translations: Hob
Typeset: Anna + Zippy
Cleans: Straydog21
QC: Zippy
Looking for translators for lots of unique series! Give me a holler at madhatterscans@gmail.com if you can help!
http://madhatterscans.haneuri.net/